

THE VALLEY CATHOLIC

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SERVING MORE THAN A MILLION CATHOLICS IN THE DIOCESE OF BROWNSVILLE

FEBRUARY 2019

Msgr. Doherty remembered as mentor, confessor to many

Last original priest of the diocese laid to rest Jan. 28

The Valley Catholic

Msgr. Patrick Doherty, the last priest in the Diocese of Brownsville who served under all the bishops in the diocese's 53-year history, from Bishop Adolph Marx to Bishop Daniel E. Flores, died Jan. 23 at San Juan Nursing Home. He was 87.

A trusted source of wisdom and history, Msgr. Doherty was a confessor and spiritual director to many, including numerous priests and religious.

"This is not just a loss for his family; it's a loss for our diocese and for the Church," said Auxiliary Bishop Mario Avilés, who celebrated Msgr. Doherty's funeral Mass on Jan. 28 at Mary, Mother of the Church Parish in Brownsville. "One of the things that many people have told me

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The Valley Catholic

A native of Ireland, Msgr. Patrick Doherty was laid to rest Jan. 28 at Buena Vista Burial Park in Brownsville, opting to be buried in the Rio Grande Valley "with his people." He was one of the founding priests of the Diocese of Brownsville when it was established in 1965.

ONE YEAR LATER



The Valley Catholic

Most Rev. Mario Alberto Avilés reflects on his first year as auxiliary bishop

By ROSE YBARRA
The Valley Catholic

It was one year ago this month the Most Rev. Mario Alberto Avilés, C.O. became the first auxiliary bishop of the Diocese of Brownsville.

On Feb. 22, 2018, Bishop Daniel E. Flores ordained Bishop Avilés of the Congregation of St. Philip Neri at the Basilica of Our Lady of San Juan del Valle-National Shrine, the first-ever episcopal ordination to take place in the diocese.

Bishop Flores had petitioned the Holy Father for an auxiliary bishop two years prior to assist him in ministering to the more than a million Catholics in the Rio Grande Valley, so that the

Church could be present to more people and in more places.

The diocese spans four counties and includes 71 parishes, 45 missions and a basilica. In less than a year, Bishop Avilés has visited about 95 percent of the churches.

"I think what Bishop Flores said at the beginning — that the purpose of having an auxiliary bishop was to be closer to the people — has been fulfilled," said Bishop Avilés, who characterizes his tenure as auxiliary bishop as "a year of meeting new people, listening and observing."

Prior to being named auxiliary bishop, Bishop Avilés had lived and served in the Diocese of Brownsville for almost

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A time for healing

Church releases list of clergy 'credibly accused' of abuse

The Valley Catholic

In keeping with a commitment made by Texas bishops in September 2018, the Diocese of Brownsville on Jan. 31 released the names of 14 local clergy credibly accused of abusing minors.

"... An accurate accounting of the past is necessary for us to move forward with integrity," Bishop Daniel E. Flores said in a letter to the faithful released at the same time as the list.

"I again express my profound sorrow on behalf of the Church. One victim is too many," Bishop Flores said in the letter. "There is great suffering associated to each case."

Of the seven bishops, 711 priests and 171 deacons who have served in the Diocese of Brownsville since it was established in 1965, 14 clergy were identified (13 priests and one permanent deacon). None of the clergy listed are in active ministry in the Diocese of Brownsville.

Most of the allegations predated the adoption in 2002 of the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People, a comprehensive set of procedures established by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops for dealing with allegations of sexual abuse of minors by Catholic clergy.



"VERBUM MITTITUR SPIRANS AMOREM"

("The WORD is sent breathing love.")

HOPE IS IN BLOOM



Catholic Charities RGV to host its annual gala March 7
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COME, HOLY SPIRIT



Ninth annual Divine Mercy Conference set for Feb. 23
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SAVING LIVES



Respect Life Apostolate to provide training Feb. 8-9
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EN ESPAÑOL

Historias sobre el Mons. Mario Alberto Avilés y su primer año como el obispo auxiliar de la diócesis; la peregrinación de La Virgen de la Candelaria de Tlacotalpan, Veracruz,

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Viajamos juntos en oración y penitencia

Queridos fieles de la Diócesis de Brownsville,

La Diócesis de Brownsville está dando a conocer los nombres de los clérigos sobre quienes se ha presentado alguna denuncia verosímil de haber abusado sexualmente de un menor a partir del año 1965, el, el año en que se fundó la Diócesis. Esto es parte de un compromiso que todos los obispos de Texas hicieron en septiembre de 2018. Este es un día doloroso para la Iglesia, pero que debemos enfrentar.

Como dije en octubre, es necesario contar con una visión precisa del pasado para avanzar con integridad. Los obispos de Texas y yo creemos que la publicación de los nombres después de una revisión exhaustiva de los archivos contribuirá a restaurar la confianza y ayudará en la recuperación. La aceptación humilde y honesta de la verdad, nos hace caminar hacia adelante con pobreza de espíritu para la purificación y renovación. Primero debemos pensar en las víctimas y ser sensibles al dolor que pudiera resurgir a causa de esta publicación.

Esta comunicación de nombres está dirigida a las parroquias de la diócesis para que los fieles católicos puedan estar seguros de que no hay nada oculto en los archivos que pudiera ir en detrimento de los menores, y que los protocolos del Estatuto de Dallas de 2002 se están implementando en su totalidad. Todos los archivos de sacerdotes, diáconos y obispos fueron examinados por un equipo de revisión designado por el obispo.

El equipo de revisión estaba compuesto por ocho laicos, siete mujeres y un hombre, todos con

By prayer and penance, we journey together

To the faithful of the Diocese of Brownsville,

The Diocese of Brownsville is releasing names of those members of the clergy credibly accused of abuse of a minor since 1965, the year the Diocese was founded. This is part of a commitment all the bishops of Texas made in September 2018. This is a painful day for the Church, yet one we must face.

As I said last October, an accurate accounting of the past is necessary for us to move forward with integrity. I and the bishops in Texas believe that releasing the names after an exhaustive review of the files will contribute to restore trust and healing. The humble and honest acceptance of the truth calls us to move forward in poverty of spirit for purification and renewal. We must think of the victims first and be sensitive to any renewed pain this release may cause.

This communication of names is directed to the parishes of the diocese so that the Catholic faithful can be assured that nothing is hidden in the files to the detriment of young people, and that the protocols of the Dallas Charter of 2002 are being fully implemented. All the personnel files of priests, deacons and bishops were examined by a review team appointed by the bishop. The review team was comprised of seven lay women and one layman, all with experience in the education and protection

MOST REVEREND
DANIEL E. FLORES
BISHOP OF BROWNSVILLE



of young people. They were assisted in their work by the Chancellor and our Victims Assistance Coordinator. The review team looked at every file independently. They were given full access to all clergy files in the Diocese of Brownsville, 889 clergy in all (seven bishops, 711 priests, 171 deacons).

Their report, which is available on our diocesan website (cdob.org), names 14 clergy credibly accused since 1965. All the cases, with the exception of one, occurred before the year 2002. The Diocese of Brownsville has no credibly accused cleric in active ministry. The review team had access to everything the diocese has in its files. I am grateful to the review team for their many hours of arduous and detailed work. They have generously done the Church a great service, at great personal cost. Credibly accused does not necessarily mean guilty beyond doubt; it means there is evidence the abuse likely happened.

The review team presented me with the information they found in the files, and I ordered it published, in accord with the decision of all the bishops of Texas. I again

express my profound sorrow on behalf of the Church. One victim is too many. There is great suffering associated to each case. As we move forward, we remain firm in our commitment to take care of those who are most vulnerable in our midst. Our Victims Assistance Coordinator stands ready to assist anyone who at any time brings an allegation of abuse forward.

I am grateful for the example, prayer and ministry of so many faithful priests, deacons and bishops since the founding of the diocese in 1965. In these times of sorrowful purification, we know that by prayer and penance we journey together in the Lord. As I shared with you in September in a letter published in our diocesan newspaper, it is necessary now more than ever, that we dedicate ourselves anew as a people of faith to the work the Lord has commended to us, to bind the wounds of the broken-hearted and announce the power of His grace that is greater than any evil. Let us preach the Gospel, serve the poor, practice evangelical virtues, pray for sinners, and always hope in the triumph of grace over sin. Let us ask the Virgin Mother of God, Our Lady of Sorrows, to help us persevere in the faith, hope and charity given us in her Son, Jesus Christ.

In Christ,
+ Daniel E. Flores
Bishop of Brownsville

experiencia en la educación y protección de los jóvenes. Ellos fueron asistidos en su trabajo por el canciller y nuestro coordinador de asistencia a las víctimas. El equipo de revisión examinó cada archivo de forma independiente. Se les dio acceso completo a todos los archivos del clero en la Diócesis de Brownsville, 889 clérigos en total (7 obispos, 711 sacerdotes, 171 diáconos).

Su informe, (que está disponible en nuestro sitio web diocesano: cdob.org), menciona a 14 clérigos acusados de forma justificada desde 1965. Todos los casos, con excepción de uno, ocurrieron antes del año 2002. La Diócesis de Brownsville no tiene ningún clérigo acusado de manera creíble que se encuentre

activo en el ministerio. El equipo de revisión tuvo acceso a todo lo que la diócesis tiene en sus archivos. Estoy agradecido con el equipo de revisión por sus muchas horas de trabajo arduo y detallado. Han hecho un gran servicio a la Iglesia, a un gran costo personal. Creíblemente acusado no significa que es culpable más allá de la duda; significa que hay evidencia de que el abuso probablemente ocurrió.

El equipo de revisión me presentó la información que encontraron en los archivos y ordené su publicación, de acuerdo con la decisión de todos los obispos de Texas. Quisiera expresar de nuevo mi profundo dolor en nombre de toda la iglesia. Tan solo una víctima ya es demasiada. Hay

un gran sufrimiento asociado con cada caso. A medida que avanzamos, nos mantenemos firmes en nuestro compromiso de cuidar de aquellos que son más vulnerables entre nosotros. Nuestro coordinador de asistencia a las víctimas está listo para ayudar a cualquier persona que, en cualquier momento, presente una denuncia de abuso.

Estoy agradecido por el ejemplo, la oración y el ministerio de tantos fieles sacerdotes, diáconos y obispos desde la fundación de la diócesis en 1965. En estos tiempos tristes de purificación, sabemos que con la oración y la penitencia viajamos juntos en el Señor.

Como compartí con ustedes en septiembre, en la carta

publicada en nuestro periódico diocesano, ahora más que nunca es necesario que trabajemos como un pueblo de fe en el Señor y en el poder de su gracia que está encima de todo mal.

Prediquemos el Evangelio, sirvamos a los pobres, practiquemos las virtudes evangélicas, recemos por los pecadores, y siempre esperemos en el triunfo de la gracia. Pidámosle a la Virgen Madre de Dios, Nuestra Señora de los Dolores, que nos ayude a perseverar en la fe, la esperanza y la caridad que nos ha dado por su Hijo, Jesucristo.

En el Señor,
+Daniel E. Flores
Obispo de Brownsville

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Texas dioceses name clergy with credible allegations of abuse

Catholic News Service

HOUSTON — In a step to restore trust in the Catholic Church, dioceses in Texas released their lists of priests against whom credible allegations of sexual abuse of a minor have been determined.

The 15 dioceses disclosed Jan. 31 the names of 278 individual clerics who have such credible allegations in Texas. The statewide disclosure removed duplication of clerics who appear on multiple diocesan lists.

The Diocese of Fort Worth, which made public its list in 2007, has continued to update its disclosure on its website. It identifies 15 priests, one permanent deacon and one religious brother.

The lists were compiled separately by each individual diocese. Many dioceses worked in cooperation with diocesan lay review boards, with some also working with independent consultants.

The release includes the Galveston-Houston and San Antonio archdioceses and the Austin, Amarillo, Beaumont, Brownsville, Corpus Christi, Dallas, El Paso, Fort Worth, Laredo, Lubbock, San Angelo, Tyler and Victoria dioceses. The oldest diocese is Galveston-Houston, established in 1847, with San Antonio founded next in 1874. Since 1950 nine additional dioceses have been established, resulting in a total of 15 dioceses. Laredo is the most recent to be established, that being in 2000.

Each diocese worked with the general understanding that a "credible allegation" is one that, after reviewing reasonably available and relevant information, and in consultation with diocesan lay review boards and/or other professionals, the diocese has reason to believe is true.

While each diocese prepared its list independently, Archbishop

Gustavo Garcia-Siller of San Antonio said the goal of releasing the lists on the same day was significant and was done in consideration of all those affected by the abuse including abuse survivors, family members, friends and parishioners.

He emphasized how each diocese remains committed to supporting and working with survivors and others affected by clergy abuse through a victim assistance coordinator. The church offers psychological and pastoral services through the coordinators to aid in the healing process, he said.

There are more than 8.5 million Catholics in Texas, and more than 1,320 parishes in the 15 dioceses.

The Jan. 31 release comes weeks before Pope Francis convenes a gathering of leaders of the world's bishops' conferences Feb. 21-24 at the Vatican to discuss the issue of sexual abuse of minors.



En pocas palabras
The Brownsville Bishop's Blog



<http://bishopflores.blogspot.com>

Hoteliers to be honored at Catholic Charities gala

Proceeds to benefit Valley residents, immigrant families

The Valley Catholic

Catholic Charities of the Rio Grande Valley is hosting its Ninth Annual Gala "Hope is in Bloom Around the World" at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 7 at Embassy Suites McAllen Convention Center, 800 Convention Center Blvd. in McAllen.

Proceeds from the gala will benefit Catholic Charities of the Rio Grande Valley, which provides assistance to more than 100,000 Valley residents each year in addition to its work with migrant and refugee families at the Humanitarian Respite Center in McAllen.

Programs include emergency assistance for the unemployed and infirm, disaster relief and recovery, food programs and assistance for families facing a crisis pregnancy.

Hoteliers Barry and Jayshree Patel will be presented with the 2019 Hope Award, which recognizes those who serve the most vulnerable members of society.

"When the Patel family heard and saw what we were doing at the respite center, they came over and offered themselves willingly to serve in any way they could," said Sister Norma Pimentel of the Missionaries of Jesus, executive director of Catholic Charities of the Rio Grande Valley.



BARRY & JAYSHREE PATEL

"They have assisted us in a number of ways, especially with our galas. Last year, they allowed us to use their facility at no cost."

"We are honoring the Patel family because it is important to highlight the families in our community who uphold the dignity of the human person, families who offer their support and give us hope. They don't hold back from helping in any way they can."

The gala will feature live and silent auctions, live entertainment, a raffle and much more. Table sponsorships and single tickets are available. International attire is encouraged to represent the families from around the world that Catholic Charities of the Rio Grande Valley assists.

For more information, please contact Michelle Nuñez at mnunez@cdob.org or (956) 702-4088.



Courtesy photos

Clockwise, from lower right: Yesenia Guzman, a caseworker for Catholic Charities of the Rio Grande Valley, assists a homeless man at the organization's San Juan office in this photo taken through a window; tens of thousands of meals are served to children each year through Catholic Charities of the Rio Grande Valley's food programs; a family impacted by a crisis pregnancy received Christmas gifts and other assistance from Catholic Charities of the Rio Grande Valley; migrant children play at the Humanitarian Respite Center in McAllen.

Auxiliary

continued from pg. 1

30 years. He served as parochial vicar of St. Jude Thaddeus Parish in Pharr, in various roles at the Pharr Oratory Schools and was pastor of Sacred Heart Parish in Hidalgo for 15 years until his ordination to the episcopate. He was also in the fifth year of a six-year term as Procurator General of the Confederation of the Oratory of St. Philip Neri, leading 85 Oratories and more than 550 Oratory priests and brothers around the world when he was appointed auxiliary bishop.

Bishop Avilés shared with *The Valley Catholic* more about his first year as auxiliary bishop of the Diocese of Brownsville, as well as his goals for the future.

What has this first year been like?

Bishop Avilés: The year has definitely gone by fast. It's incredible. A year ago at this time, we were making preparations for the ordination, the details and all that.

It's been a very good year in the sense that it's been a learning experience of what the episcopate is all about, and also, it's been great getting to know the different parishes and the different communities in the diocese.

For me, it's like discovering something new that I never knew existed. I feel bad to say that, because I have lived here for 30 years, but as a priest, you have so much to do in your own parish, you don't realize what's out there, so it's been very good to go and



Courtesy photo

Auxiliary Bishop Mario A. Avilés leads a multi-parish procession on June 3, 2018 at Our Lady, Queen of the Universe Parish in San Benito on the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ (Corpus Christi).

out and explore the rest of the Valley.

I had heard of communities such as San Isidro and La Havana; I had heard of McCook, but I had never been there. So I have made it a point to visit as many communities as possible. I have visited 95 percent of the parishes and missions, a good number, in all the

counties. There are still some that I have to visit and I will visit them this year during the Confirmation season.

By visiting different places, you can see the faith is truly lived across the Valley, not just at the parish, but in a variety of ways, through this apostolate or that devotion for example. We

all share the same faith, but the expressions of that faith are very diverse.

It's been a rich and rewarding experience. The people have received me very well. They are very grateful to the Church and the Holy Father for the gift of having another bishop.

What were your goals for the past year?

Bishop Avilés: My first goal was to know the diocese through its people in the communities and the parishes; that's why I've been making it a point to go the different parishes and communities. I try not to impose and show up unannounced, so have I asked the pastors to invite me. I have told them it doesn't have to be a special feast or anything. I have even covered Masses when the pastor is on vacation.

As far as my work with the Curia, my goal for the first year was to observe and listen. I knew the diocese from the other side as a pastor. As we enter the second year, we can start being a little more proactive, making more decisions and adjustments, along with Bishop Flores, to make things better. It has been a good experience working all this time with Bishop Flores, in a spirit of collaboration and open communication.

On Sept. 3-14, you attended a new bishop's course for newly ordained bishops at the Vatican. Tell us about that.

Bishop Avilés: It was a wonderful experience to be there with 144 bishops from all over the world, including 14 of us from the United States.

We were all ordained within

the last year. All of us are learning and going through the same thing. It becomes your class like when you graduate from high school or college. You keep in touch, especially with the ones from your own country.

The course itself touched on a wide range of topics, including pastoral care of the family, the relationship between a bishop and his priests, finances, interreligious dialogue and evangelizing through digital media.

In addition to the talks, we had a retreat and visited St. Peter's Basilica to celebrate Mass and to pray before the tomb of St. Peter, followed by an audience with the Holy Father, the Successor of Peter. He gave us some words of encouragement and his blessing.

Does anything else stand out from the last year?

Bishop Avilés: It has been a good experience to have a good fraternity with the Diocese of Matamoros. Bishop Eugenio (Andres Lira Rugarcía) and I have been friends for many, many years, since our days as seminarians. We re-established the clergy December gathering — a posada with the clergy of the Dioceses of Matamoros and Brownsville.

On Dec. 30, the feast of the Holy Family, I was invited to celebrate Mass at Holy Family Church in Brownsville and a few hours later and just a few miles away, I celebrated Mass at Holy Family Church in Matamoros. They are neighboring parishes but the river is in between. To me, it's a sign of what the Valley is, what living on the border is all about. This is the Church, and it has nothing to do with borders.

» Women en la Frontera

Oh, the Places You'll Go!

You have brains in your head. You have feet in your shoes. You can steer yourself any direction you choose. – from the Dr. Seuss book *Oh, The Places You Will Go!*

Setting goals is always useful to help focus our energy and efforts. At the beginning of the New Year, people took to making resolutions or vision boards. The future is full of possibilities. However, sometimes we miss a critical step – asking God for his guidance, paying attention to his will for us in our lives.

Meet Maria Dolores “Lolis” Flores from Brownsville. For years, this 23-year-old who recently completed the two-year diocesan lay ecclesial ministry formation program wanted to become famous for her singing talent. She sang every chance she could, auditioned for different television programs, looked for every opportunity to get recognized by talent scouts. She was becoming discouraged, but during a retreat, she experienced a conversion that helped her surrender her will to what God might be calling her to do.

She became more involved in her parish, Our Heavenly Father Church in Olmito, and started taking formation classes. Soon she discovered she could use her voice to evangelize, to sing for God's greater glory. “The singing that he has given me is a gift from God and I want to share that with everyone,” she said.

In July 2018, she started praying the Rosary and sharing her music live every night at 10 p.m. on Facebook. Within six months she had more than 50,000 followers. She now has more than 58,000. She has since added an Instagram account that is growing a following as well. “I remember my first live



The Valley Catholic

Singer/songwriter Lolis Flores prays the Rosary live on Facebook and Instagram at 10 p.m. every night. Her more than 50,000 followers join her in prayer.



Brenda Nettles Riojas
Editor of *The Valley Catholic*

broadcast. I was scared and nervous. I was trembling,” she said. “But one follows the will of God and I entrusted my fears and my will to him.”

Lolis, who started singing in the mariachi when she was 16 years old in high school, said she has drawn inspiration from praying the Rosary live. Since she began, people from

throughout the world have joined her in prayer. “It has been a blessing to unite with so many, to join together night after night to pray the Rosary,” she said. “Praying every night, Mary takes us to Jesus.” She said hundreds have since shared their own conversion stories with her.

Last year Lolis also released two singles. Her first single, “Siempre Has Sido Tu,” was released in June 2018. Produced by Joan Sanchez at GOSPA studios in McAllen, the song is available on all digital platforms. Lolis said the song describes her personal “before and after” experience of meeting God.

“It is great to see how people

connect to this song. I think we have to share what God has done with us. Through our testimony, people can identify with us, and this song has been a blessing – to record it and to share it,” she said.

In her song, Lolis shares: “Sin darme cuenta, cerré las puertas, le di la espalda a tu amor. / Y siempre has sido tú lo que más necesitaba, Siempre has sido tú el anhelo de mi alma.” (Without realizing it I closed the doors, I turned my back on your love. You have always been what I most needed, without realizing it. It has always been you.)

As someone who is not in the habit of posting daily on social media, I consider Lolis’ advice something to consider: “I invite you to share your testimony with others,” she said. “What God has done for you in your life may be what others need to hear. God is always present for us.”

Lolis released a new song, “Bendita Maria,” on the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe this past December. It speaks of her devotion to the Blessed Mother Mary, whose “yes” changed the world.

While some young people are using social media platforms to post about their daily lives, highlighting everything from the parties they attend to the celebrities they follow, it is inspiring to see how one young woman and others like her are using social media to give witness to how the Lord is working in her life. At the same time she is bringing the light of Christ to others.

I anticipate we will be hearing more from this young woman in the future. Oh, the places you’ll go when God is leading the way. Lolis, “You’re off to great places.”

Divine Mercy Conference set for Feb. 23

‘Come, Holy Spirit’ theme of ninth annual event

The Valley Catholic

Fountain of Mercy Ministries, a local apostolate, is hosting its ninth annual Divine Mercy Conference on Saturday, Feb. 23 at the Weslaco ISD Performing Arts Center, 471 E. 6th St. in Weslaco.

The theme of this year’s event is “Come, Holy Spirit,” which was sought through prayer and meditation, said Cynthia Cabaza, president of the board of directors for Fountain of Mercy Ministries.

“One of the daily Mass readings was on the Holy Spirit and that’s what inspired the theme,” Cabaza said. “When we allow the Holy Spirit to move us, to guide us, we find life and peace.”

Bishop Daniel E. Flores will open the conference with prayer and reflection. Father Derlis Garcia, parochial vicar of St. Joseph the Worker Parish in San Juan and director of the diocesan Respect Life Apostolate and Deacon Ray Thomas of Holy Spirit Parish in McAllen will serve as the masters of ceremony.

John Michael Talbot, a Grammy Award-winning Catholic singer-songwriter-guitarist, author and founder of a monastic religious community, will serve as the keynote presenter.

Also presenting at the conference will be Father Jeffrey Kirby. The pastor of Our Lady of Grace Parish in Indian Land, South Carolina, Father Kirby holds a Doctorate in Sacred Theology from the Pontifical University of the Holy Cross in Rome and has published several spiritual books including “Lord, Teach Us to Pray” and “Kingdom of Happiness.” He is also a senior contributor for Crux, an online Catholic newspaper.

The mission of Fountain of Mercy Ministries is to spread the message and devotion of Divine Mercy as well as the Good News of Christ Jesus.

“Our goal for Fountain of Mercy Ministries is evangelization,” Cabaza said. “We’re disciples and that’s what the Lord calls us all to be.”

» Please see Conference p.5



BISHOP FLORES



TALBOT



FATHER KIRBY

» Family Life

Jesus teaches us self-emptying love

During the month of February, we seem to be surrounded by the word “love,” especially in stores and advertisements for Valentine’s Day. Like most holidays and holy days, I think we can safely say that there tends to be an over-commercialization of these special days. On the flip side, perhaps we can use it to our advantage and practice being more reflective and discerning on what “love” truly is and how we live it in our lives.

In the Gospel of John, Chapter 15, Verse 13, Jesus tells us, “No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.” Jesus laid His life down for us. He emptied Himself physically, emotionally and spiritually, and in so doing teaches us to do likewise.

Perhaps we might see this as a tall order or as a difficult thing to emulate. In family life, I believe we can see many examples of self-emptying love even when we do not recognize it. Whenever we let go of our ego, when we relinquish our comfort and do what is best for the ones we love even - and perhaps especially -



Lydia Pesina
Director, Family Life Office

when it is inconvenient for us, in a small way, we are expressing self-emptying love.

A few examples of this type of love in family life: (1) a mother of a newborn baby wakes in the wee hours of the morning to nurse her infant; (2) a parent of a toddler stays up most of the night when he has a high fever; (3) a teenage boyfriend/girlfriend couple understand and practice chastity and limit alone time to diminish their temptation to overstep their boundaries as their great love naturally seeks affection; (4) single young adults learn how to pace a relationship (as described in the RAM Relationship Attachment model of “How to Avoid Marrying a Jerk/Jerkette”) and learn to KNOW a dating partner before TRUST, RELY, COMMIT, TOUCH; (5) an engaged couple makes a deci-

sion to simplify their wedding reception plans in order to better prepare for their life together, especially as they start having children; (6) parents of a child with special needs rearrange their schedules, their home, and their priorities to better serve and enjoy her; (7) a father works away from home weeks at a time in oil rigs or construction to provide for his family; (8) a wife reschedules work and home responsibilities to attend to her husband when ill; (9) children and youth do extra chores when needed and assist in keeping within the family’s budget.

In *Evangelium Gaudium* (Joy of the Gospel) #66, Pope Francis states: “The family is experiencing a profound cultural crisis, as are all communities and social bonds. In the case of the family, the weakening of these bonds is particularly serious because the family is the fundamental cell of society, where we learn to live with others despite our differences and to belong to another...” If we, as families, continue to work on living “Self-Emptying Love” as Jesus continues to teach us, perhaps we can impact other

similar ways. Perhaps administrators of institutions, for example, can place the needs of their patients, clients, or customers before the financial bottom line. Perhaps public servants can listen to all sides of an issue and let go of their egos to make the best decisions for their constituents. I pray that in my lifetime I can live to again see the day when politicians and public servants can have public discourses in respectful ways, as I believe we once did in this great country of ours. I read once that when Buddhists hold a debate, the only thing they can state is what they believe the consequence of that action would be (and only that) and that the only way either of the two debating could lose such a debate was to stop smiling! Perhaps if we can become a people less “me-centered” and become a people more service-centered, we can better learn “Self-Emptying Love.”

May the Holy Spirit guide us all to be “True-Lovers”: lovers of God; lovers of life; lovers of family; and lovers at the service of others.

»Sunday Readings

The Word of God in the Life and Mission of the Church

FEB. 3

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Reading 1
JER 1:4-5, 17-19

Responsorial Psalm
PS 71:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 15-17

Reading 2
1 COR 12:31-13:13

Alleluia
LK 4:18

Gospel
LK 4:21-30

FEB. 10

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Reading 1
IS 6:1-2A, 3-8

Responsorial Psalm
PS 138:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 7-8

Reading 2
1 COR 15:1-11

Alleluia
MT 4:19

Gospel
LK 5:1-11

FEB. 17

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Reading 1
JER 17:5-8

Responsorial Psalm
PS 1:1-2, 3, 4 AND 6

Reading 2
1 COR 15:12, 16-20

Alleluia
LK 6:23AB

Gospel
LK 6:17, 20-26

FEB. 24

Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

Reading 1
1 SM 26:2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23

Responsorial Psalm
PS 103:1-2, 3-4, 8, 10, 12-13

Reading 2
1 COR 15:45-49

Alleluia
JN 13:34

Gospel
LK 6:27-38

National School Counseling Week



AZALEA ALDAPE
Incarnate Word Academy, Brownsville



ANGELA CANTU
San Martin de Porres School, Weslaco



OLGA CISNEROS
St. Joseph Academy, Brownsville



AMANDA CORKILL
Guadalupe Regional Middle School, Brownsville; St. Anthony School, Harlingen



MELBA FLORES
Our Lady of Sorrows School, McAllen



RINA GONZALEZ
Our Lady of Sorrows School, McAllen



LINDSAY IRWIN
St. Joseph Academy, Brownsville



CLARA MAGALLANES
St. Mary School, Brownsville



SISTER COLLEEN MATERESE, SSD
St. Joseph School, Edinburg/Catholic Schools Office



LILIAN MORALES DE LASTRA
Oratory Schools, Pharr



BARBARA OZUNA
Immaculate Conception School, Rio Grande City



VERONICA RODRIGUEZ
Juan Diego Academy, Mission



VILMA WOLFE
St. Joseph Academy, Brownsville

National School Counseling Week 2019, "School Counselors: Providing Lessons for Life," will be celebrated from Feb. 4-8. It highlights the tremendous impact school counselors can have in helping students achieve school success and plan for a career.

"We recognize our Catholic School counselors and thank them for their commitment to their ministry in helping serve the students in the Rio Grande Valley," said Sister Cynthia A. Mello of the Sisters of St. Dorothy, superintendent of schools for the Diocese of Brownsville.



Courtesy photo

St. Simon, believed to be a cousin of Jesus, was the second Bishop of Jerusalem.

»Feast Day
Feb. 18

Spotlight on
St. Simon of
Jerusalem

Catholic News Agency

A relative of Jesus, possibly a first cousin. Simon, or Simeon, is in the Gospel of Matthew, and is one of the brethren of Christ mentioned in Acts who was present at the birth of the Church on the first Pentecost.

Simon was the brother of St. James the Lesser, who was the first Bishop of Jerusalem. When the Jews massacred St. James the Lesser in the year 62, his brother Simon reproached them for their atrocious cruelty.

The apostles and disciples met at Jerusalem to appoint St. James the Lesser a successor. They unanimously chose St. Simon, who had probably before assisted his brother in the government of that Church.

In the year 66, in which Sts. Peter and Paul suffered martyrdom at Rome, the civil war began in Judea, by the seditions of the Jews against the Romans.

The Christians in Jerusalem were warned by God of the impending destruction of that city. They therefore departed out of it the same year and retired beyond Jordan to a small city called Pella, having St. Simon at their head. After the taking and burning of Jerusalem they returned and settled themselves amidst its ruins. The Church here flourished, and multitudes of Jews were converted by the great number of prodigies and miracles wrought in it.

Vespasian, the Roman emperor from 69-79, and Domitian, Roman emperor from 81-96, had commanded all to be put to death who were of the race of David. St. Simon had escaped their searches; but, Trajan, Roman emperor from 98-117, having given the same order, certain heretics and Jews accused Simon, as being both of the race of David and a Christian, to Atticus, the Roman governor in Palestine.

The holy bishop was condemned to be crucified. By this time, Simon was 120 years old.

After having undergone the usual tortures during several days, he suffered with so much patience that he drew on him a universal admiration, and that of Atticus in particular. Simon died in the year 107. He is believed to have governed the Church of Jerusalem for about 43 years.

Forming the laity for ministry and life

Last month 148 of our laity completed the two-year diocesan lay ecclesial ministry formation program. They received their certificate of completion from Bishop Daniel E. Flores and are now ready to "go into the vineyard of the Lord" to be of service to the Church in the Rio Grande Valley. The vineyard is the Church and there is plenty of work to be done. The harvest is plenty but the workers are few.

The Lord Jesus reminds us: "I am the Vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me and I in him will bear much fruit, because without me you can do nothing." (John 15:5). Jesus formed his disciples for three years, preparing them to preach the gospel and bringing forth the kingdom of God.

In *Christifideles Laici* (The vocation and mission of the laity in the church and the world), St. John Paul II (Apostolic Exhortation, 1988) reminded the Church: "The call of the Lord Jesus 'You go into my vineyard too' ... is addressed to everyone: lay people are personally called by the Lord, from whom they receive a mission." The Pope addressed the dignity of the lay faithful, their participation in the communion of the Church, their co-responsibility for the Church's mission, the variety of lay vocations, and the formation of the laity.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches that by virtue of their rebirth in Christ all the Christian faithful are called to cooperate in building up the



Deacon Luis Zuniga

Director, Office for Pastoral Planning & San Juan Diego Ministry Institute

Body of Christ according to each one's condition and function.

In the Diocese of Brownsville, we offer the laity the opportunity for formation through the San Juan Diego Ministry Institute. It was named after Juan Diego, who was sent by the Virgen de Guadalupe to tell his bishop of her request to have a temple built for her. Juan Diego was a messenger, the first laity commissioned. All who receive formation through the Institute are "Juan Diegos" for the Church today, messengers of the gospel."

The Diocesan Ministry Institute offers a program of two years (four semesters) for those laity who are able to commit to the program and attend classes twice a month on Saturday mornings. These topics are included: Introduction to Theology of Ministry, Introduction to Theology, Introduction to Philosophy, Old Testament, Christology, Liturgy & Worship, Ecclesiology, Second Vatican Council Documents, Sacramental Theology, New Testament, Catholic Social Teaching, Christian Morality, Christian Prayer, Church History, Overview of Monotheistic Religions, Catholic Spirituality, and Theological

Reflection.

The participants who complete the first two years are offered the option of a fifth semester in which pastoral theology is offered. Participants are also invited to take a personality inventory as well as a charism of spiritual gifts inventory in order to become effective lay ecclesial ministers in the Church to cooperate with their pastors in serving the people of God in the Valley.

The lay ministry formation program is based on *Co-Workers in the Vineyard of the Lord: Resource for Guiding the Development of Lay Ecclesial Ministry Formation from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops*, published in 2005.

The diocesan formation program for the laity implements the four pillars (dimensions) for formation highlighted on *Co-Workers in the Vineyard of the Lord*. These are the same that are defined for priestly and diaconal formation, human, spiritual, intellectual and pastoral. Since both ordained (bishops, priests and deacons) and the laity (non-ordained) work together and provide the pastoral and ministerial leadership for the Church community, the Episcopal Conference of Bishops find it fitting that the same framework is to be utilized as a guide for all three formational programs. Each formation program helps the person in preparation for ministry to gain a broader sense of self, ministry, Church and God.

» Please see **Laity** p. 6

Conference

continued from pg. 4

"I'm Catholic, born and raised, I went to Catholic school, but I really didn't know my faith. Our Church is so rich in culture and tradition; it's beautiful if we know what we have. We host these events to inform, enhance and deepen the faith."

Fountain of Ministries also hosts live action plays featuring different saints. The apostolate recently sponsored "Maximilian: Saint of Auschwitz," about the life of St. Maximilian Kolbe which was staged in several communities and at Catholic schools throughout the Rio Grande Valley.

Early registration (by Feb. 18) for the Divine Mercy Conference is \$35 and includes lunch. Late registration is \$40. Admission is free for priests, deacons and religious brothers and sisters.

Registration is available online at www.fomm.us or by phone at (956) 351-5978.



Courtesy photo

A music video by Colombian recording artist Carlos Vives features an image of La Virgen de la Candelaria de Tlacotalpan. The image is set to visit the diocese Feb. 16-18 as part of a pilgrimage from Guatemala to Los Angeles.

Image of La Virgen de la Candelaria de Tlacotalpan to visit the diocese

Devotion draws tens of thousands to Veracruz each year

The Valley Catholic

Every year on Feb. 2 — the Feast of Candlemass — in Tlacotalpan, Veracruz, Mexico, thousands line the banks of the Papaloapan River to watch a water procession in honor of La Virgen de la Candelaria (the Virgin of Candelaria).

A barge covered with thousands of flowers carries a large statue of La Virgen de la Candelaria de Tlacotalpan, an image of the Blessed Mother with long, flowing tresses, topped with a gold crown and mantle. She cradles the infant Jesus in her arms, carrying a candle in her right hand, symbolizing her son as the light of the world.

A select number of parishioners and dignitaries ride on the barge with Mother Mary while hundreds more accompany La Virgencita down the river in personal or rented rowboats, motorboats, party boats, canoes and rafts, tossing flower petals in the river and shouting, “¡Viva la Virgen de la Candelaria!” (Long live the Virgin of Candelaria) The people watching from the riverbanks respond, “¡Que viva!” (Long may she live.)

Arriving at shore, the procession continues on land as the image of La Virgen de la Can-

delaria, is carried by a group of men to her sanctuary, just in time for the celebration of the Holy Mass, the culmination of a days-long celebration.

This sacred tradition and the devotion to La Virgen de la Candelaria de Tlacotalpan is emblazoned in the hearts of Veracruzanos everywhere, said Patricio Mora Dominguez, who organizes an annual pilgrimage of the image of La Virgen de la Candelaria de Tlacotalpan through Guatemala, Mexico and the United States.

“We are praying for peace in Mexico,” said Dominguez, a native of Tlacotalpan who now divides his time between Mission and Reynosa. “We pray for peace, for the Holy Father, for migrants and for life.”

“The Virgin of Candelaria is the bearer of light. Through Our Blessed Mother, through this pilgrimage, we are bringing the Good News and God’s love everywhere we go.”

Dominguez said Colombian singer Carlos Vives commissioned image when he filmed a music video in Tlacotalpan in September 2012.

In its seventh year, the 2019 pilgrimage began Jan. 2 in Guatemala, crossed the Suchiate River, which separates Guatemala and Mexico, passing by migrant centers in Chiapas and Oaxaca before heading north to Veracruz for the Feb. 2 feast.

The pilgrimage route continues through Tuxpan, Tam-

pico and Reynosa before crossing into the United States, with planned stops in Hidalgo, McAllen and San Juan.

The image of La Virgen de la Candelaria de Tlacotalpan is slated to arrive by the 5:30 p.m. Mass at Sacred Heart Church in Hidalgo on Saturday, Feb. 16.

On Feb. 17, the image will visit San Juan Diego Parish in McAllen at 8 a.m. and Feb. 18, will arrive at the Basilica of Our Lady of San Juan del Valle-National Shrine for a Rosary at 10 a.m., followed by a short presentation on the history of La Virgen de la Candelaria de Tlacotalpan. The 11:30 a.m. Mass will be celebrated in the Blessed Mother’s honor.

Dominguez said he programs multiple stops along this part of the U.S. and Mexico border because more than 300,000 native Veracruzanos live in the Dioceses of Matamoros and Brownsville.

After leaving the Rio Grande Valley, the pilgrimage will continue to different cities throughout the United States and end on March 2 in Los Angeles.

Dominguez, 71, was moved to tears as he described the reactions of Veracruzanos all over the United States after seeing La Virgencita de la Candelaria de Tlacotalpan, hundreds of miles away from home.

“The reaction of the people is priceless,” he said. “You can see, feel the divine presence. This is why we do this every year.”

Laity

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This is the reason why any lay person exercising any type of leadership in ministry for the Church is recommended and expected to receive the proper formation. In the Diocese of Brownsville, formation for

our laity is offered through the different diocesan offices: Office of Catechesis, Family Life, Catholic Schools, Youth Ministry, Young Adult & Campus Ministry, Jail Ministry, Hospital Ministry, Liturgy & Worship in cooperation with the Diocesan Lay Ministry Institute.

The lay ministry formation program will begin again in fall 2019. Anyone interested in the program is invited to consult

with their pastor, seek his recommendation and attend the orientation scheduled for May of this year.

As Christian faithful, we are called by virtue of our baptism to active participation in the mission and ministry of the Church, whether one is called to the ordained or lay ministry. Each of us have gifts and charisms to share in the service of the people of God.

»Obituaries



Deacon Benito Flores
April 3, 1927 - Jan. 16, 2019

Deacon Benito Gonzales Flores, 91, of San Benito, entered eternal rest on Jan. 16. He was born on April 3, 1927 in Inaria, Texas to Mr. and Mrs. Antonio and Regina Flores.

At the age of 18, Benito enlisted into the U.S. Navy. Vessels and Stations he served on were the NTC San Diego, California, USS Texas, NAS Corpus Christi,

Texas, USS Begor (SPD 127), and the USS AFD 29. He spent seven months of deployment to the Asia Pacific area during the American Area Campaign where there was a World War II victory.

After his service and duty to the United States Naval Service, he married the love of his life, Sofia Guerra, on April 3, 1948. As a civilian, he worked for Central Power & Light.

He was ordained to the permanent diaconate in May 1980 and served at St. Theresa Catholic Church in San Benito for 38 years.

He is preceded in death by his wife, his parents and two brothers.

Benito is survived by his sons, Placido (Anita) Ramirez, Benito (Angie) Flores Jr., Armando (Irma) Flores, Arnulfo “Nuco” (Janie) Flores, Arnaldo “Cochise” Flores, and Albert (Isabel) Flores; 12 grandchildren; 15 great grandchildren; and siblings, sister, Guadalupe Villarreal; brothers, Pedro, Elias, and Ricardo Flores.



Sister Gloria Dominguez, MJ
June 28, 1939 - Jan. 20, 2019

Sister Gloria Dominguez, 79, entered into eternal rest on Jan. 20 at San Juan Nursing Home.

Born June 28, 1939 in Brownsville, Sister Dominguez spent a large part of her life serving in the congregation of

Missionaries of Jesus.

She ministered at Villa Bethany Home for Girls in Brownsville for many years, providing a loving and caring environment for girls in crisis.

With Sister Dominguez, the girls found a listening ear, wise counsel and words of hope and encouragement.

Later, she worked as a catechist and in parish ministry at Sacred Heart Parish in Elsa and Christ the King Mission Church in Monte Alto.

In her final years of ministry, she served as a hospital chaplain in Harlingen and Brownsville, providing spiritual care to hundreds of families during times of illness and death.

Sister Dominguez was raised by Theodora and Jesus Dominguez. She was the youngest of four siblings and survived by four nephews, two nieces, eight great nephews, and a great niece.



MICHAEL RAMIREZ, Team Leader:
“If you want to pay more, that’s your business!
If you want to pay less, that’s my business!
I’m working first for you!”

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Respect Life Apostolate to provide pro-life training

Class offers tips for prayer warriors, sidewalk counselors

The Valley Catholic

Sidewalk counselors and prayer warriors are the last line of defense for babies facing death by abortion.

The Respect Life Apostolate for the diocese is hosting a pro-life training to teach volunteers effective techniques on how to offer prayer, hope, help and alternatives to those arriving for abortion appointments at the McAllen abortion facility.

The training will feature classroom training as well as on-site training at the sidewalk and is based on the successful methods used by the Catholic Pro-Life Committee of the Diocese of Dallas. The training and materials are free.

The training begins at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 8 at St. Jude Thaddeus Parish, 505 S. Ironwood St. in Pharr and continues at 7:30 a.m. on Saturday, Feb. 9 outside of the Whole Woman's Health Abortion Clinic, 802 S. Main St. in McAllen.

Joanne Underwood, Convert-

to-Life/Sidewalk Counseling Director for the Catholic Pro-Life Committee of North Texas Respect Life Ministry of the Diocese of Dallas will be the lead instructor. More than 9,000 babies have been saved since the inception of the Convert-to-Life Ministry in 1997.

"A peaceful presence on the sidewalk, the kind face a woman might see in moments of despair absolutely do make a difference in helping women choose life," said Father Derlis Garcia, director of the Respect Life Apostolate for the diocese. "Sidewalk counseling is to accompany women through moments of desolation and loneliness."

At the training, participants will learn how to:

- maintain a peaceful, non-threatening atmosphere
- create a prayerful presence at the abortion center
- implement effective sidewalk counseling techniques
- convert the mother's and/or father's heart and thereby save the life of the child
- offer assistance to a post-abortive woman/man and help lead her/him back to God

To register online, visit www.prolifergv.com or call (956) 783-1196.



Courtesy photo

A pro-life advocate prays as he stands outside an abortion facility in downtown McAllen where dozens of babies are killed each week. The Respect Life Apostolate of the diocese is providing a training for sidewalk counselors and prayer warriors Feb. 8-9. More volunteers are needed to provide a peaceful presence on the sidewalk.

Birthday & Anniversary Wishes

The list of birthdays and ordination anniversaries is provided so that parishioners may remember the priests, deacons and religious in their prayers and send them a note or a card.

February

» Birthdays

- 3 Rev. Thomas Pincelli
- 4 Rev. Mishael Koday
- 19 Most Rev. Raymundo J. Peña
- 26 Rev. Juan Victor Heredia
- 26 Rev. Thomas G. Kulleck

- 2 Sister Mary N. Vincelli, CSJ
- 3 Sister Anita Jennissen, OSF
- 6 Sister Luz Ma. Leyva, OSC Cap
- 10 Sister Nayelit Moreno, OSC Cap
- 13 Brother Albert Phillipp, FMS
- 14 Sister Marina Carrascal, OP
- 16 Sister Rose Weidenbenner, RSM
- 20 Sister Rosalia Fink, OSB
- 23 Sister Frances Solum, OSB

- 1 Deacon Florencio Treviño
- 8 Deacon Amando Peña Jr.
- 11 Deacon Gilberto Perez
- 13 Deacon Hugo De la Cruz
- 13 Deacon Benigno Palacios
- 15 Deacon Jose R. Castro
- 15 Deacon George M. Terrazas
- 17 Deacon Hector Perez
- 18 Deacon Pedro Sanchez
- 22 Deacon Alvino Olvera
- 25 Deacon David Carreón

» Anniversaries

- 2 Rev. Juan Victor Heredia
- 6 Rev. Chris Santangelo, ss.cc.
- 8 Rev. Michael Gnanaraj
- 11 Msgr. Robert Davola
- 25 Rev. Marco Antonio Reynoso

- 3 Deacon Carlos Aguilar
- 3 Deacon José Aguilera
- 3 Deacon Alberto J. Aldana
- 3 Deacon José Bernal
- 3 Deacon Henry Camacopa
- 3 Deacon Cruz Carlos
- 3 Deacon David Carreón
- 3 Deacon Santos Chapa
- 3 Deacon León Díaz
- 3 Deacon Arturo Escobedo
- 3 Deacon Félix Félix
- 3 Deacon Guadalupe Garcia
- 3 Deacon José Javier Garcia
- 3 Deacon Romeo Garcia, Jr.
- 3 Deacon Rodrigo Garza, Jr.
- 3 Deacon Brigido Gonzalez
- 3 Deacon Juan González
- 3 Deacon Gabriel Hernandez
- 3 Deacon Jesús Hernández
- 3 Deacon Jorge Hinojosa
- 3 Deacon Julio Ibarra
- 3 Deacon Víctor Lara
- 3 Deacon Noé Longoria
- 3 Deacon Richard Longoria
- 3 Deacon Juan Carlos Ortiz
- 3 Deacon Benigno Palacios
- 3 Deacon José Peralez, III
- 3 Deacon Ross Pruneda
- 3 Deacon Josué Ramirez
- 3 Deacon Miguel A. Ramirez
- 3 Deacon Román Ramos
- 3 Deacon Raúl Rangel
- 3 Deacon José Humberto Rios
- 3 Deacon Francisco Rugama
- 3 Deacon Michael L. Seymour
- 3 Deacon Lorenzo Soto
- 3 Deacon José A. Torres
- 3 Deacon Florencio Treviño
- 3 Deacon Luis A. Treviño
- 3 Deacon Jose G. Vargas
- 3 Deacon Miguel Villarreal
- 3 Deacon Juan Zamora

Msgr. Doherty

continued from pg. 1

is, 'Now I have to find a new confessor.' Many, many people have expressed that, so Father Pat was there for many people and he will be missed. He's also an example for all of us, an example of faithfulness, an example of what a priest should be — a true servant."

During a Rosary service on Jan. 26 at the Basilica of Our Lady of San Juan del Valle, Father Alfonso Guevara, pastor of St. John the Baptist Parish in San Juan, said Msgr. Doherty believed in him when others didn't.

As a transitional deacon in his last year of seminary, Father Guevara was instructed to ask a particular priest if he could serve at his parish.

"That priest said, 'I don't need you,' Father Guevara recalled. The incident left him feeling discouraged.

Father Guevara then approached Msgr. Doherty and asked if he could serve alongside him for his deacon year of ministry.

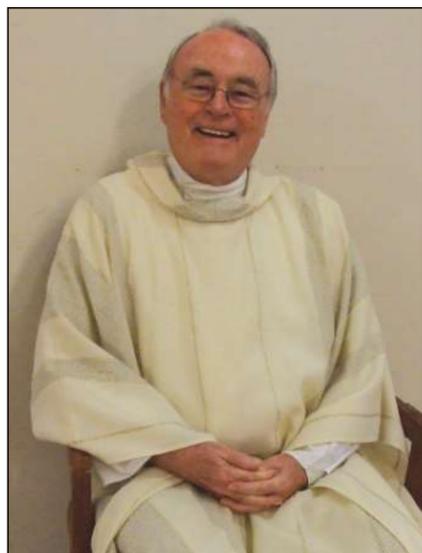
"Father Pat said, 'Sure. Tomorrow's the Pentecost, do you want to preach?'" Father Guevara said.

Father Guevara said it meant the world to him that Msgr. Doherty not only welcomed him to his parish but also trusted him to deliver the homily on such an important day.

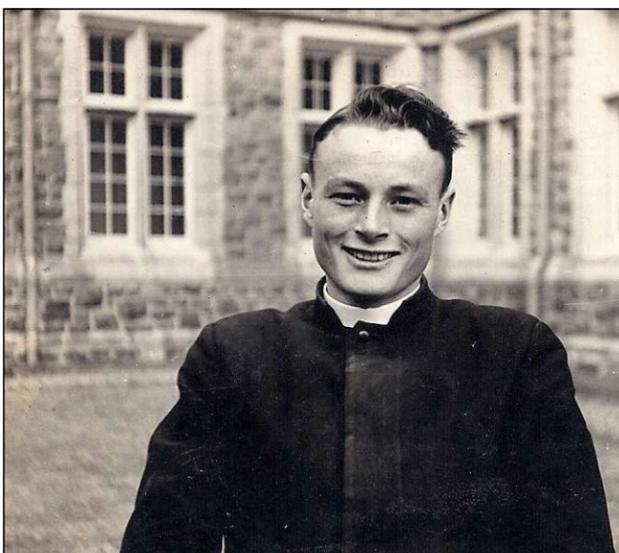
"That started my relationship with him. I was very fortunate to have him as a friend, as a brother, confessor and spiritual director."

Known to his family as PJ, Msgr. Doherty was born in Headford, County Kerry, Ireland on March 25, 1931 to Hannah and Timothy Doherty.

He studied at St. Peter's Seminary in Wexford and was ordained a priest of the Diocese of Corpus Christi on June 5, 1955.



Left, Msgr. Patrick Doherty in April 2010 at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church in McAllen where he often celebrated daily Mass in the evenings. Right, Msgr. Doherty in 1955 as a new priest in the Diocese of Corpus Christi, which included the four counties of the Rio Grande Valley in those days.



The Valley Catholic

His first of many assignments in his more than 63 years of ministry was at St. Mary Star of the Sea Church in Aransas Pass. From there he came to the Rio Grande Valley in 1961 to serve at St. Anthony Church in Harlingen.

Msgr. Doherty would remain in the Valley the rest of his life, feeling quite at home because "the Mexicans are just like the Irish," as he often said.

In 1964, he became the first diocesan priest to serve in the city of Brownsville.

He was one of the founding priests of the new Diocese of Brownsville in 1965. He served as pastor of several Brownsville parishes: Christ the King Church, where he bought the property for what today is Good Shepherd Parish; Sacred Heart Church, which he closed with Father Ron Anderson and moved the congregation to Mary, Mother of the Church; he then founded and built St. Luke Parish, from where he went to St. Ignatius Church in El Ranchito. He then served as pastor at St. Joseph the Worker Church in McAllen, and started the Guadalupe Mission which to-

day is San Juan Diego Church in Balboa Acres.

He asked for permission to serve in the Diocese of Matamoros and spent five years as pastor of Parroquia San José in Santa Apolonia. When he returned in 1992, he served as pastor of Holy Spirit Church in Progreso, and then St. Pius X Church in Weslaco. He then returned to Brownsville for a second stint in the city that was truly his home in the Valley and where he wished to be buried.

Msgr. Doherty was laid to rest at Buena Vista Burial Park in Brownsville on Jan. 28.

"As the years went by, the people of South Texas became his people," said Father Amador Garza, parish administrator of Holy Spirit Parish in Progreso, who delivered the homily at Msgr. Doherty's funeral Mass. "When his sister Mary asked him to come home and be buried next to his parents, he responded, 'I will be buried with my people in Texas.'"

"He lived with us far longer than in his native homeland. What is amazing is that we not only became his people, but he

became one of us, just as Jesus became one of us."

Msgr. Doherty served as Vicar General of the Diocese for three years beginning in 1995 while pastoring first Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish and then St. Joseph Parish in Brownsville. He was assigned to the Basilica of Our Lady of San Juan del Valle in 2001 where he served the remaining years of active ministry. He literally heard hundreds of thousands of confessions during these years.

Msgr. Doherty is survived by his sister Joan Leary of Worcester, Mass., his brother Gerald (Eileen) of Headford, Ireland, his brother Mike of Ballispittle, County Cork, his sister Mary Dunleavy (Eugene) of Salt Hill, County Galway, and his brother Tim (Liz) of Lutz, Fla. He also leaves behind many nephews, nieces, and great nephews and nieces.

Msgr. Doherty was a great supporter of the Capuchin Poor Clare Nuns in Alamo, both spiritually and financially.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Capuchin Poor Clares, 727 E Bowie Ave., Alamo, TX 78516.

Our promise to protect, our pledge to heal

A plan to Protect God's Children

Step 1: Know the Warning Signs

Knowing the warning signs of adults means we can recognize the early signs of an inappropriate relationship between adults and children and can identify potential abuse before it happens.

- Discourages other adults from participating or monitoring
- Always wants to be alone with children
- More excited to be with children than adults
- Gives gifts to children, often without permission
- Goes overboard touching
- Always wants to wrestle or tickle
- Thinks the rules do not apply to them
- Allows children to engage in activities their parents would not allow
- Uses bad language or tells dirty jokes to children
- Shows young people pornography
- Takes photos without approval

Step 2: Control Access through Screening

Controlling access means that we are careful about who we allow to work with our children, and include the items that must be completed prior to ministry.

- Create procedures to determine who has access to children
- Use standard applications
- Obtain previous experience with youth serving organizations
- Require criminal background checks
- Complete face-to-face interviews
- Check personal and employment references
- Regularly review guidelines and policies for adults working with minors
- Ensure compliance with the rules
- Develop and employ an acceptable use of technology policy
- Communicate the Church's commitment to keeping children safe

Step 3: Monitor all Ministries and Programs

Once adults have been screened, all ministries and programs should be supervised to ensure that proper policies and procedures are being followed to keep children safe. If an abuser knows that someone is watching,

they have more trouble finding opportunities to abuse without getting caught.

- Identify secluded areas, lock empty rooms
- Develop policies regarding use of secluded areas
- Do not permit children to enter staff-only areas
- Only meet with children where other adults can have open access
- Supervisors should have open access to all programs
- Make sure enough adults are involved
- Allow parents to have proper access
- Don't start new programs without approval
- Encourage parental involvement
- Encourage the monitoring of all youth Internet activities
- Install and use appropriate blocking and filtering software for electronic devices

Step 4: Be Aware of Child and Youth Behavior

Being aware means that parents and caring adults should know what is going on in the lives of the children within their care and pay attention to the subtle signs of a problem. Communication is key. When we observe and communicate with our children, we are more likely to detect the signs if they are in danger. We can notice a sudden change in behavior (if they get moody or aggressive), lose interest in school, or stop taking care of their personal hygiene — all potential symptoms of child sexual abuse.

- Talk to your children
- Listen to your children
- Observe your children, including Internet and phone use
- Let your children know they can tell you anything
- Teach your children where their private parts are and that not all adults or children should see or touch them
- Talk to your children often about protecting themselves, including when using the Internet or technology
- Teach your children what to do if someone tries to touch them
- Teach your children what to do if someone makes them uncomfortable
- Teach your children what to do if they have an uncomfortable communication or experience online

A team of eight lay persons (seven women and one male) who hold positions of trust in the public and private sector, reviewed files of all bishops, priests, and deacons dating back to 1965 when the Diocese of Brownsville was founded. They, along with the assistance of the Chancellor and Victims Assistance Coordinator, reviewed each file to identify any credible allegation of clergy sexual abuse of a minor. Every record in our archives has been reviewed.

A "credible allegation" is one that, after review of reasonably available, relevant information in consultation with the Diocesan Review Board or other professionals, there is reason to believe is true. A credible allegation does not necessarily mean "guilty beyond a reasonable doubt."

The list was provided by the review team, which spent more than 500 hours collectively looking at everything the Diocese has in its files, in an effort to provide healing to victims and an even safer environment for children. Should any subsequent credible allegations be reported, this list will be updated accordingly.

List of Clergy with Credible Allegation of Sexual Abuse of a Minor in the Diocese of Brownsville

Humberto Acosta
Born: February 7, 1949
Ordained: May 30, 1974
 Left diocese in 1994. Allegation fully disclosed to receiving Military Ordinary in Venezuela.

Lee DaCosta
Born: June 29, 1937
Ordained: April 23, 1973
 Retired in 2012. Faculties removed in 2019 after review team identified him as a priest who had a credible allegation of sexual abuse of a minor.

George B. Dyer, O.P.
(deceased)
Born: January 6, 1935
Ordained: June 9, 1961 for the Dominican Friars
 He returned to the Dominican Friars in 1983.
Died: 2013

Armando Escobedo
Born: June 8, 1936
Ordained: June 6, 1964
 Removed from ministry in 2002.

Terrence Fowler
Born: March 18, 1961
Ordained: June 4, 1988
 Faculties removed in 1998. Laicization in process.

Frank Gomez
(deceased)
Born: October 28, 1928
Ordained: May 27, 1961
Died: May 20, 2014
 Faculties removed in 1994.

James Jeffrey
(deceased)
Born: June 15, 1933
Ordained: May 30, 1959 for the Diocese of Fargo, North Dakota
Died: May 28, 2017
 A priest who was on loan to Diocese of Brownsville. Faculties removed in 1988 and he returned to home diocese.

Basil Onyia
Born: May 22, 1966
Ordained: July 13, 1996 for the Diocese of Abuja in Nigeria
 On loan from the Diocese of Abuja from 1999 to 2001. Removed from ministry in 2001. He fled the country after he was reported to civil authorities. Laicized: 2016

Benedicto Ortiz
(deceased)
Born: September 1, 1930
Ordained: April 13, 1957 for the Diocese of Arecibo in Puerto Rico
 Incardinated to the Diocese of Brownsville: June 1, 1974
Died: May 14, 2011
 Credible abuse report received in 2016.

Salvador Rangel, MSF
(deceased)
Born: August 6, 1947
Ordained: September 1, 1973
Died: May 18, 2002
 Removed from ministry in 1977, returned to his religious community

Ivan M. Rovira
Born: March 26, 1945
Ordained: May 30, 1971 for the Diocese of Rockford
 Incardinated to Diocese of Brownsville: June 6, 1977
 Faculties removed in 2002.

Salomon (David) Sandoval
(deceased)
Born: October 16, 1950
Ordained: June 30, 1979
Died: Date unknown
 Removed from ministry in the Diocese of Brownsville 1986. Allegation fully disclosed to receiving bishop in Ciudad Victoria.

Marti G. Zuber
Born: May 11, 1950
Ordained: June 26, 1976
 Removed from ministry in 1993. Laicization in process.

List of Clergy with Credible Allegation of Sexual Abuse of a Minor after the Year 2002*

Ronaldo Mitchell Chavez
Born: August 13, 1973
Ordained to permanent diaconate: December 18, 2010
 He was removed from active ministry in 2012. Pled guilty and sentenced to seven years in prison.

*The USCCB "Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People," a set of procedures and guidelines to help dioceses address allegations of sexual abuse of minors, was established by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops in 2002.

For more information and resources, visit our website, www.cdob.org/disclosure/

HOW TO REPORT



The Texas Department of Family and Protective Services provides a secure website

www.txabusehotline.org for reporting suspicions of abuse, neglect, and exploitation of children, adults with disabilities, or people 65 years or older.

Use this website to report situations that do not need to be investigated right away. It may take more than 48 hours to process online reports.



If you believe someone is in immediate danger, call the Texas hotline, **1-800-252-5400**



After contacting the appropriate civil authorities and law enforcement, please report any allegation of abuse to the local diocesan Victim Assistance Coordinator, **Walter Lukaszek (956) 457-0100** or wlukaszek@cdob.org

OUR TRACK RECORD IN THE DIOCESE OF BROWNSVILLE

SINCE 2002



EVERYONE WHO IS EMPLOYED BY THE DIOCESE IS REQUIRED TO TAKE "PROTECTING GOD'S CHILDREN" AND UNDERGOES A BACKGROUND CHECK

IN 2018

31,195

CHILDREN IN THE DIOCESE WERE TRAINED TO KEEP THEMSELVES SAFE



3,096
VOLUNTEERS

WHO WORK WITH CHILDREN AND MINORS ARE ACTIVE MANDATORY REPORTERS

Nuestra promesa de proteger, nuestra promesa de sanar

NUUESTRO SEGUIMIENTO EN LA DIÓCESIS DE BROWNSVILLE

DESDE 2002



A TODOS LOS QUE SON EMPLEADOS DE LA DIÓCESIS SE LES REQUIERE QUE TOMEN EL CURSO DE "PROTEGIENDO A LOS NIÑOS DE DIOS" Y REVISAMOS SU HISTORIAL

EN 2018

31,195

DE LOS NIÑOS EN LA DIÓCESIS HAN SIDO ENTRENADOS EN COMO AUTOCUIDARSE



3,096

VOLUNTARIOS QUE TRABAJAN CON NIÑOS Y MENORES DE EDAD ESTAN OBLIGADOS A REPORTAR SITUACIONES DE ABUSO

UNA ORACIÓN DE SANACIÓN VÍCTIMAS DE ABUSO

Dios del amor infinito,
Siempre presente, siempre justo;
Tú nos cuidas y nos proteges
Y nos diste a tu único Hijo
Para salvarnos con su sangre en la cruz.

Jesús manso, pastor de la paz,
Dígnate unir a tu propio sufrimiento
El dolor de todos los que han sido heridos
De cuerpo, mente y espíritu
Por parte de aquellos que traicionaron la confianza puesta en ellos.

Escucha el clamor de nuestros hermanos y hermanas
Que han sido lastimados gravemente,
Así como el clamor de aquellos que los aman.
Dales la esperanza que mitigue el desosiego de sus corazones,
Dales la fe que calme sus espíritus perturbados.
Concédeles justicia para su causa,
Ilumínalos con tu verdad.

Espíritu Santo, consolador de corazones,
Cura las heridas de tus hijos e hijas
Y devuelve la integridad a lo que ha sido quebrantado.
Concédenos el valor y la sabiduría,
La humildad y la gracia, para actuar con justicia.
Sopla tu sabiduría en nuestras oraciones y empeños.
Que todos los que han sido heridos por el abuso
encuentren paz y justicia.
Te lo pedimos por Cristo, nuestro Señor. Amén.

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A PRAYER FOR HEALING VICTIMS OF ABUSE

God of endless love,
ever caring, ever strong,
always present, always just:
You gave your only Son
to save us by his blood on the cross.

Gentle Jesus, shepherd of peace,
join to your own suffering
the pain of all who have been hurt
in body, mind, and spirit
by those who betrayed the trust placed in them.

Hear the cries of our brothers and sisters
who have been gravely harmed,
and the cries of those who love them.
Soothe their restless hearts with hope,
steady their shaken spirits with faith.
Grant them justice for their cause,
enlightened by your truth.

Holy Spirit, comforter of hearts,
heal your people's wounds
and transform brokenness into wholeness.
Grant us the courage and wisdom,
humility and grace, to act with justice.
Breathe wisdom into our prayers and labors.
Grant that all harmed by abuse may find peace in justice.
We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

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Un plan para Proteger a los Niños de Dios

Paso 1: Conozca las señales de advertencia

Conocer las señales de advertencia de los adultos significa que podemos reconocer las primeras señales de una relación inapropiada entre los adultos y niños y podemos identificar el posible abuso antes de que ocurra.

- Desanima a otros adultos a participar o a observar
- Siempre desea estar solo con los jóvenes
- Más emocionado de estar con los niños que adultos
- Da regalos a los niños, a menudo sin permiso
- Se excede al tocar a los niños
- Desea jugar al forcejeo o hacerles cosquillas
- Cree que las reglas no se aplican a ellos
- Permite participar en actividades no permitidas
- Usa un lenguaje grosero o cuenta chistes obscenos a los niños
- Muestra material pornográfico a los jóvenes
- Toma fotografías sin autorización

Paso 2: Controle el acceso por medio de selección

Controlar el acceso significa que debemos tener cuidado con respecto a la persona que permitimos que trabaje con nuestros niños y especificar los puntos con los cuales es preciso cumplir antes del ministerio.

- Cree procedimientos para determinar quién tiene acceso a los niños
- Use solicitudes normales de empleo
- Obtenga información sobre la experiencia previa de servicio con los jóvenes
- Exija investigaciones de antecedentes penales
- Realice entrevistas personales
- Verifique las referencias personales y laborales
- Examine regularmente las directrices y políticas referentes a los adultos y niños
- Asegure el cumplimiento con las normas
- Formule una política sobre el uso de tecnología
- Comunique el compromiso de la Iglesia de mantener seguros a los niños

Paso 3: Vigile todos los ministerios y programas

Una vez seleccionados los adultos, todos los ministerios y programas donde haya niños deben supervisarse para asegurar la observancia de políticas y procedimientos apropiados para mantener seguros a los

niños. Si saben que alguien está observándolos, les será más difícil encontrar oportunidades de abuso sin ser descubiertos.

- Identifique los lugares apartados y cierre con llave los cuartos vacíos
- Formule políticas para los lugares apartados
- No permita que los niños entren a los lugares designados solamente para el personal
- Solo reúna con los niños donde otros adultos puedan tener libre acceso
- Los supervisores deben tener libre acceso a todos los programas
- Asegúrese de que hay suficientes adultos que participen
- Permita que los padres tengan el debido acceso
- No comience nuevos programas sin permiso
- Anime a los padres de familia a participar
- Fomente la vigilancia cuando usen el Internet
- Instale y use software apropiado de bloqueo y filtrado para los dispositivos electrónicos

Paso 4: Esté al tanto del comportamiento de los niños y los jóvenes

Estar al tanto significa que los padres de familia y los adultos conscientes deben saber qué sucede en la vida de los niños que están bajo su cuidado y prestar atención a las señales sutiles. La comunicación es la clave. Cuando comunicamos, es más probable que detectemos las señales de que están en peligro. Podemos notar un cambio repentino de comportamiento (si se muestran malhumorados o agresivos), si pierden interés en la escuela o si dejan de cuidar de su higiene personal, lo que pueden ser síntomas de abuso sexual infantil.

- Hable con los niños
- Escuche a los niños
- Observe a los niños, incluso cuando usen el Internet y el teléfono celular
- Dígales que pueden contarle cualquier cosa
- Enséñeles dónde están sus partes íntimas y que no todos los adultos o niños deben verlas ni tocarlas
- Hable a menudo sobre la forma de protegerse, incluso al usar el Internet u otro medio de tecnología
- Enséñeles qué deben hacer si alguien trata de tocarlos
- Enséñeles qué deben hacer si alguien los hace sentir incómodos
- Enséñeles qué deben hacer si tienen una comunicación o experiencia en línea que los hace sentir mal

Fuente: VIRTUS, National Catholic Services, LLC

CÓMO REPORTAR

El Departamento de Servicios para la Familia y de Protección de Texas proporciona un sitio web seguro www.txabusehotline.org para reportar sospechas de abuso, negligencia y explotación. Este sitio web ha sido diseñado para reportar situaciones que no necesitan ser investigados de inmediato. Se puede tomar más de 48 horas para procesar informes en línea.



En los casos en los que parece que una persona está en peligro inmediato, llame a la línea de Texas, al **1-800-252-5400**

Después de ponerse en contacto con las autoridades civiles correspondientes y las autoridades policiales, notifique cualquier acusación de abuso al Coordinador de Asistencia a las Víctimas de la Diócesis de Brownsville,



Walter Lukaszek
(956) 457-0010
ó
wlukaszek@cdob.org

» La Alegría de Vivir

Mejora tu imagen

Enero y febrero son los meses en que los gimnasios y otros lugares para hacer ejercicio están a máxima capacidad, todo mundo está decidido a verse mejor, perder las libras ganadas durante los banquetes navideños y de fin de año, etc., indudablemente que incrementar la actividad física mejorara tu salud y, con tiempo y constancia, también tu aspecto físico, pero a veces lo más simple para verse mejor es reforzar la autoestima de cada uno.

Durante las etapas del desarrollo de todo ser humano se presentan diversas imágenes físicas de sí mismo que deben adaptarse o reconciliarse con lo que esperamos ver reflejado en el espejo. En la mayoría de las personas se observa una búsqueda de sí mismos durante la adolescencia, los jóvenes experimentan con su pelo, su ropa, las perforaciones, los tatuajes, en fin, su comportamiento en general cambia con el fin de ser diferentes, de ser originales, auténticos.

La autenticidad esta correlacionada con los conceptos de bienestar mental, vitalidad, autoestima y los mecanismos de autodefensa. Cuando una persona es auténtica y vive de acuerdo al concepto que tiene de sí mismo se siente satisfecho con su vida, pues no tiene nada que reprocharse, lo que le brinda un bienestar mental, una paz consigo mismo.

El conocimiento de uno mismo, de nuestras habilidades y también debilidades, nos hace sentir más seguros de nuestras decisiones. Alguien con una autoestima saludable puede enfrentarse a la vida seguro de que sabrá manejar cualquier problema por sí mismo sin temor de caer presa de comportamientos autodestructivos como la dependencia del alcohol y las drogas.



Msgr. Juan Nicolau, Ph.D., STL
Sacerdote jubilado de la Diócesis de Brownsville

Las personas auténticas saben su valor y confían en sus habilidades, lo que les permite superar cualquier reto o alcanzar las metas que se proponen. No se sabe si todas estas características positivas del ser se desarrollan a partir de la autenticidad o viceversa, pero las personas que no son auténticas tienden a ser también seres inseguros, fáciles de apabullar, desconfiados y recelosos. Los filósofos de la antigua Grecia, Sócrates y Aristóteles, mantenían que todos tenemos un ser interno en espera que lo descubramos y que logremos actuar de acuerdo a todo lo bueno que se espera de nosotros.

Después los filósofos en la Edad Media relacionaban el concepto de ser auténtico con la moral y la religiosidad, ellos mantenían que la gente actuaba de buena fe porque era su verdadera naturaleza, la que le fue dada por Dios. Los Existencialistas del siglo XX, como Sartre, comenzaron a preguntarse si de verdad existía algo interno que nos determinara, ellos proponían el concepto que el ser interno se creaba a partir de nuestras acciones.

Para los cristianos el verdadero ser es el alma inmortal, la cual todos poseemos, sin embargo solo cuando pasamos a mejor vida sabremos a ciencia cierta cómo es nuestra alma, y mientras tanto debemos aceptarnos tal cual somos, con nuestros defectos y virtudes, y atrevernos a ser auténticos, para poder vivir en paz con nosotros mismos y la imagen que vemos reflejada cada día en el espejo.



La Misa crismal,
27 de marzo de 2018



Via Crucis en Viernes Santo,
30 de marzo de 2018



Audiencia con El Papa Francisco en el Vaticano, 14 de septiembre de 2018

Reflexiones del Obispo Avilés en su primer año como obispo auxiliar

Por ROSE YBARRA
The Valley Catholic

Fue hace un año durante este mes que el Monseñor Mario Alberto Avilés, C.O. se convirtió en el primer obispo auxiliar de la Diócesis de Brownsville.

El 22 de febrero de 2018, el obispo Daniel E. Flores llevó a cabo la ordenación del obispo Avilés de la Congregación del Oratorio de San Felipe Neri, en la Basílica de Nuestra Señora de San Juan del Valle (Santuario Nacional), siendo esta la primera ordenación episcopal que tiene lugar en la diócesis.

Mons. Flores había hecho la petición al Santo Padre de contar con un obispo auxiliar para que le apoyara en el ministerio para más de un millón de católicos en el Valle de Río Grande, de tal manera que la iglesia pudiera estar presente para más personas y en más lugares.

La diócesis abarca cuatro condados, esto incluye 71 parroquias, 45 misiones y una basílica. En menos de un año, el obispo Avilés ha visitado cerca del 95 por ciento de las iglesias.

“Yo creo que lo que el Obispo Flores dijo en un principio — que el propósito de tener un obispo auxiliar era estar más cerca de la gente — se ha cumplido,” dijo el obispo Avilés, quien describe como característica de su trabajo como obispo auxiliar, “un año de conocer nuevas personas, escuchar y observar.”

Antes de ser nombrado obispo auxiliar, el obispo Avilés había vivido y servido en la Diócesis de Brownsville por casi 30 años. El sirvió como vicario parroquial en la parroquia de San Judas Tadeo en Pharr, cumpliendo varios roles en las escuelas de Oratory en Pharr y fue el párroco en la Parroquia del Sagrado Corazón en Hidalgo por 15 años hasta su ordenación al episcopado. También estuvo en el quinto año (de un período que dura seis años) como Procurador General de “the Confederation of the Oratory of St. Philip Neri”, dirigiendo 85 oratorios y más de 550 sacerdotes y hermanos oratorianos alrededor del mundo, en el momento que fue nombrado obispo auxiliar.

El Obispo Avilés compartió con *The Valley Catholic* más acerca de su primer año como obispo auxiliar de la Diócesis de Brownsville, así como también sus metas para el futuro.

¿Cómo ha sido su primer año?

Definitivamente el año se ha pasado muy rápido. Es increíble.

Hace un año por estas fechas, estábamos haciendo todos los preparativos para la ordenación, los detalles y todo eso.

Ha sido un buen año, en el sentido de que ha sido una experiencia de aprendizaje acerca de todo lo que es el episcopado y también ha sido muy bonito ir conociendo las diferentes parroquias y comunidades de la diócesis.

Para mí, es como descubrir algo nuevo que no sabía que existía. Me siento mal de decir eso porque he vivido aquí 30 años, pero como sacerdote, tienes tanto que hacer en tu propia parroquia, que no te das cuenta de lo que hay afuera, así que ha sido muy bueno ir y explorar el resto del Valle.

Yo había escuchado de comunidades como San Isidro y La Havana; había oído de McCook, pero nunca había estado ahí. Así que me he propuesto visitar cuantas comunidades me sea posible. He visitado el 95 por ciento de las parroquias y misiones, lo que es un buen número, en todos los condados. Todavía hay algunas que tengo que visitar y las visitaré este año durante la temporada de confirmaciones.

Al visitar diferentes lugares, puedes ver que la fe se vive verdaderamente a lo largo del Valle, no sólo en la parroquia, sino de diferentes maneras, mediante un apostolado o una devoción, por ejemplo. Todos nosotros compartimos la misma fe pero las expresiones de esa fe, son muy diversas.

Ha sido una experiencia muy enriquecedora y provechosa. Las personas me han recibido muy bien. Ellos están muy agradecidos con la Iglesia y con el Santo Padre por el regalo de tener otro obispo.

¿Cuáles eran sus metas el año pasado?

Mi primer meta era conocer la diócesis a través de su gente en las comunidades y las parroquias; es por eso que me he hecho el propósito de ir a diferentes parroquias y comunidades. Trato de no imponerme ni presentarme sin anunciarme antes, así que he pedido a los párrocos que me inviten. Les he dicho que no tiene que ser una festividad especial ni nada de eso. Incluso he cubierto misas cuando el párroco está de vacaciones.

En cuanto a mi trabajo con la Curia, mi meta para el primer año fue observar y escuchar. Yo conocía la diócesis desde otro punto de vista, como párroco. Conforme entramos al

segundo año, podemos empezar a ser un poco más proactivos, tomando más decisiones y realizando ajustes junto con el obispo Flores, para hacer las cosas mejor. Ha sido una buena experiencia trabajar todo este tiempo con el obispo Flores, con un espíritu de colaboración y de comunicación abierta.

En septiembre del 3 al 14, asistió a un nuevo curso en el Vaticano para obispos recién ordenados. Platiquenos acerca de esto.

Fue una experiencia maravillosa estar ahí con 14 obispos de todo el mundo, incluyendo 14 de nosotros de Estados Unidos.

Todos nosotros fuimos ordenados durante el año pasado. Todos estamos aprendiendo y pasando por lo mismo. Llega a ser tu clase como cuando te graduaste de high school o de college. Te mantienes en contacto, especialmente con los que son de tu propio país.

El curso en sí mismo tocó un amplio rango de temas, incluyendo el cuidado pastoral de la familia, la relación entre un obispo y sus sacerdotes, finanzas, diálogo entre religiones y evangelización a través de los medios digitales.

Además de las pláticas, tuvimos un retiro y visitamos la Basílica de San Pedro para celebrar misa y orar frente a la tumba de San Pedro, seguido por una audiencia con el Santo Padre, sucesor de Pedro. Nos dirigió unas palabras de motivación y nos dio su bendición.

¿Hay algo más que sobresalga sobre el año pasado?

Ha sido una buena experiencia tener una buena fraternidad con la Diócesis de Matamoros. El obispo Eugenio (Andrés Lira Rugarcía) y yo, hemos sido amigos por muchos, muchos años, desde nuestros días de seminaristas. Nosotros restablecimos la reunión de diciembre del clero, una posada con el clero de las diócesis de Matamoros y Brownsville.

El 30 de diciembre, en la festividad de la Sagrada familia, fui invitado a celebrar misa en la Iglesia de la Sagrada Familia en Brownsville y unas pocas horas después y sólo unas cuantas millas de ahí, celebré misa en la Iglesia de la Sagrada Familia en Matamoros. Son parroquias vecinas pero el río está en medio de ellas. Para mí, es un símbolo de lo que es el Valle, de todo lo que significa vivir en la frontera. Esta es la Iglesia y no tiene nada que ver con fronteras.



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Imagen de la Virgen de la Candelaria de Tlacotalpan llegará al valle

En peregrinación desde Guatemala a Los Ángeles

The Valley Catholic

Cada año el 2 de febrero, durante el Festival de la Candelaria o de la Luz en Tlacotalpan, Veracruz en México, miles de personas se reúnen en las orillas del Río Papaloapan para ver en sus aguas la procesion en honor de la Virgen de la Candelaria.

Una barcaza cubierta con miles de flores lleva una enorme estatua de la Candelaria de Tlacotalpan, una imagen de la Santísima Virgen, con cabello largo hondulado y sobre su cabeza, una corona de oro y un manto. Ella lleva al Niño en sus brazos y sostiene una vela en su mano derecha que simboliza a su Hijo como la luz del mundo.

Un número selecto de parroquianos y dignatarios viajan en la barcaza con Nuestra Madre María mientras cientos de personas más acompañan a la Virgencita río abajo, ya sea en sus botes propios o rentados, de remos o de motor, en sus chinampas o en sus canoas y balsas, van lanzando pétalos de flores y gritando: "¡Viva la Virgen de la Candelaria!" y la gente que los ve desde las orillas del río contesta: "¡Que viva!"

Al llegar a la punta del río, la procesión continúa por tierra mientras la imagen de la Virgen de la Candelaria es cargada por un grupo de hombres hasta su Santuario, justo a tiempo para la celebración de la Santa Misa, que es donde culmina una celebración que ha durado días.

Esta tradición sagrada y la devoción a la Virgen de la Candelaria de Tlacotalpan, está grabada orgullosamente en el corazón de los veracruzanos en todos lados -dice Patricio Mora Domínguez, quien organiza cada año una peregrinación de la imagen de la Virgen de la Candelaria de Tlacotalpan, hasta los Estados Unidos, pasando por Guatemala y México.

"Buscamos la paz en México" -dijo Domínguez. "Oramos por la paz, por el Santo Padre, por los migrantes y por la vida."



Foto de cortesía

Un imagen de la Virgen de la Candelaria de Tlacotalpan peregrinará por el valle el 16-18 de febrero.

"La Virgen de la Candelaria es la portadora de la luz. A través de esta imagen, estamos llevando la Buena Nueva y el amor de Dios a todos los lugares a donde vamos."

Domínguez dijo que el cantante colombiano Carlos Vives, eligió a la imagen cuando filmó su video musical en Tlacotalpan en septiembre de 2012.

En su séptimo año, la peregrinación de 2019, empezó el 2 de enero en Guatemala, cruzando el río Suchiate, el cual separa a Guatemala y México, pasando por los centros de migrantes en Chiapas y Oaxaca, antes de irse hacia el Norte a Veracruz para el festival del 2 de febrero.

La ruta de la peregrinación continúa por Tuxpan, Tampico y Reynosa antes de cruzar a los Estados Unidos, con paradas en Hidalgo, McAllen y San Juan.

La imagen de la Virgen de la Candelaria está programada para llegar a la misa de las 5:30 en la Iglesia del Sagrado Corazón en Hidalgo, el sábado 16 de febrero.

El 17 de febrero, la imagen visitará la Parroquia de San Juan Diego en McAllen y el 18 de febrero llegará a la Basílica de

Nuestra Señora de San Juan del Valle -Santuario Nacional- para un rosario a las 10:00 a.m., seguida de una corta presentación sobre la historia de la Virgen de la Candelaria de Tlacotalpan, la misa de las 11:30 a.m. será celebrada en honor de nuestra Santísima Madre.

Domínguez dijo que él programa múltiples paradas en esta parte de la frontera entre México y Estados Unidos porque más de 300,000 veracruzanos viven en las diócesis de Matamoros y Brownsville.

Después de dejar el Valle de Río Grande, la peregrinación continuará hacia diferentes ciudades de los Estados Unidos, terminando el 2 de marzo en Los Angeles.

Domínguez, de 71 años, se conmovió hasta las lágrimas mientras describía las reacciones de los veracruzanos por todo Estados Unidos después de ver a la Virgencita de la Candelaria de Tlacotalpan, cientos de miles lejos de sus hogares.

"Es algo precioso" -dijo. "Ves, sientes la presencia divina. Por eso hacemos la peregrinación año tras año."

venimos hoy aquí desde continentes y ciudades", dijo.

Portugal tiene poco más de 10 millones de habitantes. Su capital Lisboa tiene unos 500 mil. Las estadísticas describen que 8 de cada 10 personas se declaran católicas pero con los años la práctica religiosa ha ido a la baja.

La JMJ se realizará en Portugal, país visitado por los tres últimos pontífices y hasta donde llegan miles de peregrinos para conocer el lugar donde la Virgen de Fátima se apareció a los pastorcitos Jacinta, Francisco y Lucía.

El Patriarca de Lisboa, Cardenal Manuel Clemente, afirmó que la Virgen de Fátima tendrá "un papel fuertísimo" en la próxima JMJ.

» Vida Familiar

Jesús nos enseña que el amor no tiene límites

Durante el mes de Febrero, parece que estamos rodeados de la palabra "amor", especialmente en tiendas y en publicidades para el "Día de San Valentín". Como la mayoría de los días festivos, yo creo que podemos decir sin temor a equivocarnos, que tiende a haber una sobre-comercialización de estos días especiales. Por otro lado, quizá podamos usar esto a nuestro favor y practicar ser más reflexivos y discernir sobre lo que realmente es "amor" y cómo lo vivimos en nuestra vida.

En el Evangelio de Juan, capítulo 15, versículo 13, Jesús nos dice: "No hay amor más grande que este: dar la vida por sus amigos." Jesús dió su vida por nosotros. Él se vació a sí mismo y se entregó física, emocional y espiritualmente y a través de esto nos enseña a que nosotros hagamos lo mismo.

Quizá podamos ver esto como un "mandato demasiado alto" o como una cosa muy difícil de imitar. Yo creo que, en la vida familiar, podemos ver muchos ejemplos de amor de entrega total aun cuando no los reconocemos. Cualquiera ocasión en que dejamos nuestro "ego" a un lado; cuando renunciamos a nuestra zona de confort y hacemos lo que es mejor por los que amamos, especialmente cuando es a pesar de nuestra propia conveniencia, de cierto modo, estamos expresando un amor de entrega total.

Unos pocos ejemplos de este tipo de amor en la vida familiar: (1) una mamá de un recién nacido que se despierta en horas de la madrugada para alimentar y cuidar de su bebé; (2) el padre o madre de un niño pequeño que se queda despierto durante la noche cuando éste tiene fiebre; (3) una pareja de novios adolescentes que entienden y practican la castidad y limitan su tiempo a solas para disminuir la tentación de sobrepasar los límites mientras su gran amor busca demostraciones de afecto; (4) Adultos jóvenes solteros que aprenden a ir paso a paso en una relación (como lo describe el RAM Relationship Attachment model "How to Avoid Marrying a Jerk or Jerkette") y aprenden a CONOCER una pareja con quien están saliendo antes de CONFIAR, RELACIONARSE, COMPROMETERSE Y TONOCARSE; (5) Una pareja de novios comprometidos para casarse que toma la decisión de hacer más sencilla la recepción de su boda para prepararse mejor para su vida juntos, especialmente para cuando empiecen a tener hijos; (6) Los papas de un hijo con necesidades especiales que reacomodan sus horarios, su hogar y sus prioridades para poder servir



Lydia Pesina
Directora, Oficina de Vida Familiar

a su hijo y disfrutarlo; (7) Un papá que trabaja en los campos petroleros o en la construcción por semanas seguidas para proveer para su familia; (8) Una esposa que arregla los horarios de su trabajo y de sus responsabilidades en el hogar para atender a su esposo enfermo; (9) Niños y jóvenes que hacen trabajo extra cuando necesitan apoyar para cuidar el presupuesto familiar.

En *Evangelium Gaudium* (Exhortación Evangélica #66, el Papa Francisco dice: "La familia atraviesa una crisis cultural profunda, como todas las comunidades y vínculos sociales. En el caso de la familia, la fragilidad de los vínculos se vuelve especialmente grave porque se trata de la célula básica de la sociedad, el lugar donde se aprende a convivir en la diferencia y a pertenecer a otros..." Si nosotros, como familias, continuamos trabajando por vivir un "Amor de entrega total" como Jesús continúa enseñándonos, tal vez podamos impactar a otras instituciones sociales a que lo hagan de manera similar. Quizá, por ejemplo, los administradores de las instituciones puedan anteponer las necesidades de sus pacientes, clientes o consumidores, frente al beneficio monetario. Tal vez los servidores públicos puedan escuchar las diferentes perspectivas de un asunto y "dejar ir sus egos" para tomar mejores decisiones para el pueblo al que sirven. Yo oro y pido que durante el tiempo que me queda de vida, pueda llegar a ver el día en que los políticos y los servidores públicos, puedan tener discursos con formas respetuosas como creo yo que algún día tuvimos en este gran país nuestro. Yo leí una vez que cuando los budistas tienen un debate, la única cosa que pueden decir es lo que ellos creen que será la consecuencia de una acción (solo eso) y que la única forma de que uno de los dos que se encuentran debatiendo pierda el debate, es si deja de sonreír. Quizá si podemos llegar a ser personas que sean menos "centradas en sí mismas" y convertirnos en personas "centradas en servir" podamos aprender mejor el "amor de entrega total".

Que el Espíritu Santo nos guíe a todos para ser "Verdaderos Amantes": amantes de Dios; amantes de la vida; amantes de la familia y amantes del servicio a los demás.

La próxima JMJ será en Portugal

ACI Prensa

Al término de la Misa de Clausura de la Jornada Mundial de la Juventud, el Cardenal Kevin Joseph Farrell, Prefecto del Dicasterio para los Laicos, La Familia y la Vida, anunció que la sede del evento internacional del 2022 será la ciudad de Lisboa (Portugal), provocando el grito jubiloso de los peregrinos de ese país.

El anuncio fue realizado ante unas 720 mil personas en el Campo San Juan Pablo II al finalizar la Misa del domingo 27 de enero.

"Como dijo el Santo Padre tenemos ahora que salir de aquí y poner en práctica todo lo que hemos aprendido. La próxima Jornada Mundial de la juventud



Foto de cortesía

será en Portugal", dijo el Cardenal Farrell.

Previamente, el Papa Francisco agradeció a los jóvenes por la fe y alegría que "han hecho vibrar a Panamá, a América y al mundo entero. Como hemos escuchado tantas veces durante estos días en el Himno de esta jornada: 'Somos peregrinos que



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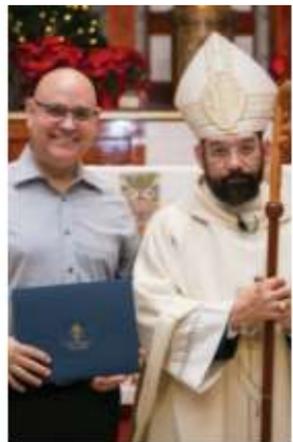
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--Bishop Daniel E. Flores,
in a letter to
the Presbyterate
on Diocesan Formation
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Diocese to sponsor musicians workshop

Material to be presented in English, Spanish

The Valley Catholic

The Office of Liturgy and Worship for the diocese is hosting "Sing to the Lord: Music in Divine Worship," a musicians workshop from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 9 at the Marx Conference Center in San Juan. The workshop will be offered in English and Spanish.

It is an opportunity for those who dedicate their time and talent to the ministry of music to gather with other pastoral musicians and reflect on the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' document *Sing to the Lord: Music in Divine Worship*. Participants will also learn how to implement the teachings of the document at their churches.

The workshop is open to pastors and pastoral leaders, choir leaders and members and anyone interested in learning more about the role music plays in the Catholic liturgy.

From the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops:

One of God's greatest gifts to us, his creation, was the gift of song. In words and music, our ancestors in faith — Moses, David, Deborah, Paul, St. Gregory — have taught us how to revel in God's infinite love, proclaim His glory, give thanks for His abounding generosity, and plead for mercy and forgiveness. Sing to the Lord: Music in Divine



The Valley Catholic

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' document "Sing to the Lord: Music in Divine Worship" is the subject of a musicians workshop set for 8:30 a.m. on Saturday, Feb. 9 in San Juan. Pictured are musicians from St. Michael the Archangel Mission Church in Los Ebanos.

Worship recalls this vast, rich musical tradition as it provides basic guidelines for understanding the role and ministry of music in the liturgy.

Standing on the foundational work of the Council fathers, Sing to the Lord echoes the call to full, active, and conscious participation in the Liturgy through its sung elements. It addresses the practical concerns of pastoral leaders—appropriate ministers, cultural diversity, instrumentation, formation, acoustics, and copyrights. It also outlines considerations for preparing and judging music for worship with an in-depth review of the musical

structure of Liturgy.

Use Sing to the Lord to:

- evaluate your parish's current musical repertoire
- better understand your role in sung worship
- prepare particular sacramental liturgies
- train parish music ministers

The early registration fee (before Feb. 4) for the workshop is \$5 and \$10 after Feb. 4 and at the door. Books will also be available for sale at a cost of \$8.

For more information, contact Rosa Gonzalez via email at rogonzalez@cdob.org or by phone (956) 784-5013.

Forever begins 'day by day, year by year'

World Marriage Day celebration to be held Feb. 9

The Valley Catholic

In his apostolic letter *Dilecti Amici* (To the Youth of the World) dated March 31, 1985, St. John Paul II wrote, "To set out on the path of the married vocation means to learn married love day by day, year by year: love according to soul and body, love that 'is patient, is kind, that does not insist on its own way... and does not rejoice at wrong'; love that 'rejoices in the right', love that 'endures all things.'

St. John Paul II continued, "It is precisely this love that you young people need if your married future is to 'pass the test' of the whole of life. And precisely

this test is part of the very essence of the vocation which, through marriage, you intend to include in the plan of your life." (*Dilecti Amici*, n. 10)

Couples who are celebrating a wedding anniversary of 10, 25, 30, 40, 50, 60 and more years in 2019 are invited to participate in the annual World Marriage Day Mass, which is sponsored by the Family Life Office of the Diocese of Brownsville

Bishop Daniel E. Flores will celebrate the Mass at 2 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 9 at the Basilica of Our Lady of San Juan del Valles National Shrine in recognition of the couples and the positive example of their witness to the Sacrament of Marriage.

Couples celebrating milestone anniversaries can register to be a part of the celebration by calling the Family Life Office at (956) 784-5012.



The Valley Catholic

Deacon Henry and Lorena Camacopa of McAllen were honored for 25 years of marriage at the World Marriage Day celebration in 2018.



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Sister Pimentel: 'We would like President Trump to know who we are and what the reality is here on our border'

Nun, mayor express disappointment about not being allowed to speak at roundtable

By **ROSE YBARRA**
The Valley Catholic

McALLEN — Sister Norma Pimentel was "truly disappointed" after not being given an opportunity to speak during a roundtable discussion with President Donald Trump during his Jan. 10 visit to McAllen.

The president traveled to the Rio Grande Valley to make his case for a southern border wall and other security measures amid a partial government shutdown that began over funding for the wall.

Calling the president's visit "quite an important moment,"

Sister Pimentel, executive director of Catholic Charities of the Rio Grande Valley, lamented that representatives of local agencies working with migrant people and local elected officials were not invited to speak during the discussion.

"I was looking forward to this roundtable discussion, but there was no discussion unfortunately," Sister Pimentel told *The Valley Catholic*. "There were certain people selected to speak, people who support the president's agenda," she added.

"We would like for President Trump to know who we are and what the reality is here on our border," said Sister Pimentel, a member of the Missionaries of Jesus.

"I would have hoped the president had gotten some input from Sister Norma, from us mayors and other local elected officials," said McAllen Mayor Jim Darling, who greeted Trump as he arrived in McAllen, but had no further discussion with him. "He missed a great opportunity to see what is going on here."

Trump arrived about 12:45 p.m. local time, along with Republican Sens. John Cornyn and Ted Cruz of Texas, Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen and White House staff.

Trump supporters as well as protesters gathered on opposite

sides of a street near the airport awaiting the president's arrival.

Trump was taken to a nearby U.S. Border Patrol Station for what was billed as a roundtable discussion with U.S. Customs and Border Protection agents, local officials and key players of the immigration story such as Sister Pimentel, who has spearheaded efforts to assist about more than 100,000 immigrants since June 2014.

When asked what she would have said to the president if she had been recognized, Sister Pimentel said, "I would definitely say that I appreciate and understand the importance of border security and keeping our border safe — that's so important. We must support our Border Patrol and their job to defend and protect our borders. We must know who enters our country."

Sister Pimentel noted she has a good working relationship with the U.S. Border Patrol and other government agencies.

"When I walked into the meeting room, all the Border Patrol agents present, even the ones from D.C. were happy to meet me and talk to me," she said. "It really demonstrates the importance of how we on the ground work together as a community — city officials, ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement), the volunteers — to the realities we face at the border.

"We recognize, yes, it's important to keep our border safe to support our Border Patrol but we also recognize there are lots of families, innocent victims of violence that are suffering," she said. "We as a community are responding to help them. It's a part of who we are as Americans: compassionate, caring."

Sister Pimentel continued, "That's a side that unfortunately our president was not open to listen to. I would have loved to have the opportunity to personally invite him to the respite center, to meet the families, to meet the children. As Catholics, as people of faith, we feel God has asked us to support, defend and protect all human life and that's what we're doing here at the respite center."

In an op-ed posted to *The Washington Post* website Jan. 9, Sister Pimentel invited Trump to visit the center, which opened in 2014 to provide assistance in response to the influx of immigrants arriving from Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador and other countries.

Sister Pimentel said the center offers shelter, meals and showers for people who have been released after being apprehended by authorities as they crossed into the U.S.

On some days as few as 20 people arrive, she wrote, adding, "Other days it's closer to 300."

In her column, she invited the president to see how the center cooperates with U.S. Customs



The Valley Catholic

During a visit to the U.S. Border Patrol station in McAllen on Jan. 10, President Donald Trump participates in a roundtable discussion on border security. Sister Norma Pimentel, who has led efforts to assist more than 100,000 migrants, and McAllen Mayor Jim Darling were invited to the event but not given the opportunity to address the president.



SISTER PIMENTEL



DARLING

and Border Protection agents to ensure the needs of the newcomers are met.

The center is staffed with volunteers who offer food, clothing, toiletries, baby supplies and travel packets, which include supplies for their journey.

These immigrants, mostly women and children, already have been detained and released by immigration authorities. They have been granted permission to continue to their destinations outside of the Rio Grande Valley and given a date for a court appearance.

Mayor Darling said Trump is hardly the first Washington official to see an incomplete picture

of the immigration issues affecting the Valley.

"In fairness to the president, most of them don't (get the full picture) when they come down here," Darling said.

"We've had Democrats and Republicans in scores, both congressman and senators, and they don't get the full picture. They don't meet with many local officials either. Democrats go to the respite center and the detention centers, but don't go to the river and see the border protection needs. The Republicans go to the river, but don't go to the detention centers or the respite center, so they don't see the humanitarian needs and immigration re-

form needs. Then they go back to Washington, without the complete picture, with different points of reference and nobody's talking. There is no discussion and it's disappointing."

Darling continued, "You're either for the wall or against the wall — that's how polarized we are as a country now and that's not healthy because there has to be compromise. There has to be discussions. As we saw with the shutdown, nobody is winning. Someone is going to lose politically and we're too concerned with re-election, with politics, when we should be concerned about doing what's good for this country."

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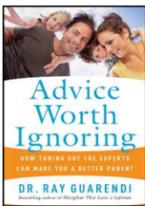
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Catholic Diocese of Brownsville

»Media Resource Center

Recommended by SISTER MAUREEN CROSBY, SSD
Coordinator of the Media Resource Center - Diocese of Brownsville

»From the Bookshelf



Advice Worth Ignoring: How Tuning Out the Experts Can Make You a Better Parent
DR. RAY GUARENDEI

Format: Audiobook **Length:** 5 hours
Publication: Franciscan Media (2016)
Author: Dr. Ray Guarendi

"It's just a stage; it will pass." "Let children express themselves." Good Advice, right? Not always. Advice Worth Ignoring exposes and counters 50 of the most common pieces of expert advice that undercut the confidence and authority of good parents. It empowers parents to do what they know works best for their own kids - and helps families grow closer in the process. Adults.

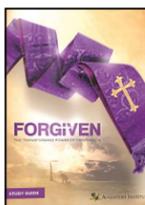


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»Worth Watching



Forgiven: The Transforming Power of Confession

Format: 6 DVDs **Run time:** 336 minutes
Production: Augustine Institute (2016)

Forgiven explores the grace and healing offered in Confession and shows how this sacrament of mercy reveals the depth and bounty of God's love. Adults with some parts for children preparing for their first confession. English and Spanish Versions + children's bonus episode.



Brother Francis: Let's Pray

Format: DVD **Run time:** 30 minutes
Production: Herald Kids (2018)

The Sign of the Cross, The Little Way of Saint Therese, Let's Pray, The Our Father, With God's Love. Brother Francis will help children establish a personal relationship with God. Ages 3-9. English and Spanish subtitles.

For a complete listing of titles, visit the Media Resource Center online at www.cdob.org/media-resource-center or call Sister Maureen Crosby, SSD, at (956) 784-5041.

» Monthly calendar

HAPPENING IN
FEBRUARY

CONFERENCIA CARISMÁTICA 2019: TÚ SIGUEME
El Movimiento de Renovación Carismática Católica de la diócesis presenta su conferencia anual a las 9 a.m. el 23 y 24 de febrero en Mission Event Center, 200 N. Shary Road en Mission. Cantos, alabanza, adoración, oración de sanación y liberación. Donativo \$10

5 & 9 TRAIN THE TRAINERS
There will be a Train the Trainers for "Protecting God's Children" from 10 a.m.- noon at the Madonna Room in the Bishop Fitzpatrick Building in San Juan. This class is for those who would like to present this program in their parish for religious educational staff and parents. To register, email wlukaszczek@cdob.org

8-9 PRO-LIFE TRAINING
Come discover how the Catholic Pro-Life Committee of the Diocese of Dallas has been successful in the pro-life movement at 6:30 p.m. Feb. 8 at St. Jude Thaddeus Parish in Pharr. Training and materials are free. Info (956) 578-3452 or www.prolifergv.com

9 MUSICIANS WORKSHOP
"Sing to the Lord: Music in Divine Worship" is scheduled for 9

a.m.-noon at the Bishop Marx Conference Center in San Juan. Info (956) 784-5013.

9 WORLD MARRIAGE DAY
Couples celebrating 10, 25, 30, 40, 50 or 60+ years of marriage in 2019 are invited to attend a Mass with Bishop Daniel E. Flores at 2 p.m. at the Basilica of Our Lady of San Juan del Valle. To register, call (956) 784-5012.

9 INTRO TO DIVINE WILL
Presented by Father Alfonso M. Guevara, pastor of St. John the Baptist Parish in San Juan. Panelists include Deacon Luis A. Treviño of Holy Spirit Church and Mary Guzman, Divine Will Advocate. The presentation is set for 9 a.m.-noon at Holy Family Parish Hall, 1302 E. Champion in Edinburg. Info Mary Villarreal (956) 878-9389, or Vel Coleby at (956) 358-8257.

9 VALENTINE'S DAY DINNER, DANCE AND AUCTION
Our Lady Star of the Sea Parish in Port Isabel is hosting the event at the Isla Grand Beach Resort Ballroom. Music will be provided by "The Latin Knights Band." Donation is \$50 per person; sponsorships are also available. Info (956) 943-1297 or follow the parish on Facebook.

10 SCOUT SUNDAY
Mass at 11 a.m. at the Basilica of Our Lady of San Juan del Valle-National Shrine for those receiving religious emblems. Info (956) 784-5032 or email Dora Rodriguez-Rosa at drodriguez@cdob.org

16 NOCHE DE MARIACHI
St. Joan of Arc Parish in Weslaco will be hosting the event at 7 p.m. Entertainment will be provided by Estrellas del Valle and Maraichi 7 Leguas. Tickets \$25 person (dinner included). Call Jose Figueroa at (956) 463-1576 or church office at (956) 968-3670 for more info.

16 TRUCK RAFFLE
St. Francis Xavier Church in La Feria is raffling a 2019 Chevy Colorado truck. Tickets are \$20. Info (956) 797-2666.

23 DIVINE MERCY CONFERENCE
Event will be held 8 a.m.-5 p.m. at Weslaco Performing Arts Center; 506 E. 6th St., Weslaco. Speakers include Bishop Flores, John Michael Talbot and Father Jeffrey Kirby. Early registration before Feb. 18, \$35 per person (lunch included). Late and on-site registration \$40. Tickets may be purchased online at www.fomm.us. Info (956) 351-5978 or (956) 351-5952.

SUBMIT YOUR EVENTS TO:
Paul Binz at pbinz@cdob.org or call (956) 784-5055.

World Day for Consecrated Life celebration Feb. 10

The Valley Catholic

Bishop Daniel E. Flores will celebrate a Mass in honor of World Day for Consecrated Life at 3 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 10, at the Basilica of Our Lady of San Juan del Valle-National Shrine.

All religious priests, sisters and brothers are invited to attend. Those celebrating milestone anniversaries of religious life in 2019 will be recognized.

The Mass is open to the public so that the faithful may express thanks and pray for the religious serving in the diocese.

For more information, contact Sister Norma Pimentel, co-vicar of religious, at npimentel@cdob.org or (956) 702-4088

Next World Youth Day to be held in Portugal in 2022

Portugal, will open its doors to the world's young people in 2022 for the next World Youth Day.

The international meeting of young Catholics will be in Lisbon, after having been held in Panama City from January 22-27, 2019.

The announcement of Portugal was made by Cardinal Kevin Farrell, head of the Vatican's Dicastery for Laity, the Family and Life, at the final Mass of World Youth Day Jan. 27. World Youth Day officials confirmed the year and city.

Upon hearing the location of the next celebration, Portuguese erupted in cheers, waving their country's flag and chanting "We are the pope's youth!"

The original statue of Our Lady of Fatima traveled to Panama for the 2019 World Youth Day for the announcement, marking the first time it left Portugal since 2000.

Official schedules



Saturday, Feb. 2
RGV March for Life, 9 a.m., begins at St. Joseph the Worker Parish, McAllen

Saturday, Feb. 2
Presentation at local World Youth Day celebration, 12:15 p.m., Mission Events Center

Saturday, Feb. 2
Procession for Basilica Feast Day Triduum, 5:30 p.m., Basilica of Our Lady of San Juan del Valle

Saturday, Feb. 9
Adoration at Knights of Columbus Youth Rally, 11 a.m., Our Lady of Sorrows Parish, McAllen

Saturday, Feb. 9
Mass for World Marriage Day, 2 p.m., Basilica of Our Lady of San Juan del Valle

Sunday, Feb. 10
Mass for Scout Sunday, 11 a.m., Basilica of Our Lady of San Juan del Valle

Sunday, Feb. 10
Mass for World Day for

Consecrated Life, 3 p.m., Basilica of Our Lady of San Juan del Valle

Wednesday, Feb. 13
Mass for students, 8 a.m., Our Lady of Sorrows Parish, McAllen

Saturday, Feb. 23
Divine Mercy Conference, 8:15 a.m., Weslaco Performing Arts Center

Saturday, Feb. 23
Confirmations, 2 p.m., St. Eugene de Mazenod Parish, Brownsville

Monday, Feb. 25 - Wednesday, Feb. 27
Tex-Mex Border Bishops Meeting, El Paso



Saturday, Feb. 2
RGV March for Life, 9 a.m., begins at St. Joseph the Worker Parish, McAllen

Saturday, Feb. 2
Mass at local World Youth Day celebration, 5 p.m., Mission Events Center

Saturday, Feb. 9
Mass at Knights of Columbus Youth Rally, 4:45 p.m., Our Lady of Sorrows Parish, McAllen

Sunday, Feb. 10
Mass for Vocations Awareness Day, noon, San Juan Diego Parish, McAllen

Sunday, Feb. 10
Mass for World Day for Consecrated Life, 3 p.m., Basilica of Our Lady of San Juan del Valle

Tuesday, Feb. 12 - Thursday, Feb. 14
New Bishops Orientation Program, Washington, D.C.

Sunday, Feb. 17
Mass, 9:30 a.m., Our Lady of Lourdes Mission Church, La Paloma

Thursday, Feb. 21
Deliver keynote address, 6 p.m., San Martin de Porres School, Weslaco

Saturday, Feb. 23
Catholic Charismatic Renewal Conference, 10 a.m., Mission Events Center

Saturday, Feb. 23
Anniversary Mass, 3 p.m., Comunidad AMA, Brownsville

Sunday, Feb. 24
Mass, 1:30 p.m., Holy Spirit Parish, McAllen

Monday, Feb. 25 - Wednesday, Feb. 27
Tex-Mex Border Bishops Meeting, El Paso

Monday - Saturday
Daily Mass, 8 a.m., St. Joseph Chapel, Alamo

Every Sunday
Mass, 3 p.m., St. Joseph Chapel, Alamo

Every Thursday
Holy Hour for Vocations, 7 p.m., St. Joseph Chapel, Alamo.

For the intention of ...
1st Thursday: Consecrated Life
2nd Thursday: Diaconate
3rd Thursday: Married Life
4th Thursday: Priesthood
5th Thursday: Lay Ministry

Our Catholic **Family**

Nursing home cares for those who cared for us

Chaplain: 'It's a special grace' to care for priests, religious

By ROSE YBARRA
The Valley Catholic

SAN JUAN — “Most priests and religious are strong and generous by nature,” said Josefina Suarez, assistant administrator and director of pastoral care at San Juan Nursing Home. “It takes strength and generosity to answer God’s call to service. It takes strength and generosity to run a parish, to lead a ministry and care for others.

“For decades, they give their lives to God. They have given everything they can to the community.”

So when priests and religious find themselves at the nursing home due to age and/or illness, it is not always easy for them to let someone else take care of them, Suarez said.

“They are used to being the ones taking care of everyone else,” she said. “The roles are reversed, but it’s their turn to receive our care and support.

“We do our very best to take good care of them.”

Since she began serving at the nursing home in 1991, first as a volunteer and now as a full-time certified Catholic chaplain, Suarez has cared for countless numbers of priests and religious at the Catholic facility.

She talks to them, she prays with them at all hours of the day



Courtesy of San Juan Nursing Home
Top photo: San Juan Nursing Home chaplain Josefina Suarez with the late Sister Gloria Dominguez of the Missionaries of Jesus. Bottom photo: The late Father Vicente Azcoiti hits the piñata at a birthday celebration at the nursing home.

and night. She even brings Communion to their room when they are too sick to go to the nursing

home chapel for Mass.

“At the very beginning, I felt very intimidated ministering to

priests and religious,” Suarez said. “I used to think, ‘How can I bring Communion to them?’ It’s a matter of getting to know them and building a relationship with them, just like with any other resident. I am a chaplain and he’s a priest or she’s a religious sister, but they are still my patient. It’s about seeing the real person.”

Suarez has also been there when priests and religious brothers and sisters take their last breaths. She comforts them by holding their hand and praying or singing hymns.

“It’s a special grace caring for our priests and religious,” she said.

Suarez also said she often feels unworthy.

“I always think, ‘Who am I to have this? It is such a sacred gift to care for those who have given their lives to the Lord and to us.’”

San Juan Nursing Home, which offers religious services every day and Mass every Sunday and on holy days, was founded in 1965 primarily as a convalescent home for aging and infirm priests. Soon thereafter, the facility began providing long-term care to the public. It is the only Catholic nursing home in the Rio Grande Valley.

The nursing home, however, has remained true to its roots caring for many priests and religious in their last days or as they recover from surgery or serious illness.

“We thank the diocese for entrusting the care of their priests and religious to the nursing home,” Suarez said. “We are grateful to have earned their con-

fidence.”

Msgr. Patrick Doherty, a retired priest of the diocese, passed away at the nursing home on Jan. 23 after residing there for several months. At his funeral, homilist and friend Father Amador Garza, parish administrator of Holy Spirit Church in Progreso, acknowledged the nursing home staff.

“He (Msgr. Doherty) never imagined that life in a nursing home could be so good,” Father Garza said. “They were so kind and loving to him there and took very good care of him.

“I want to thank them from the bottom of my heart for all they did for him there.”

For many priests and religious, the nursing home staff becomes their family. The last few priests the nursing home has cared for have been missionary priests from other countries who had no relatives nearby.

Some priests and religious also lose their support system as they age since they are no longer affiliated with a parish or ministry.

“We feel more responsible for them because they don’t have a family — we are their family,” Suarez said. “They don’t have a spouse or children to look after them or their siblings are even older or more frail than they are.

“We don’t want any of our residents to feel alone. This is what sets us apart from other nursing homes. Other facilities are business-oriented. This is a ministry. We show more compassion, empathy and love.”

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Theme of World Communications Day 2019

As we begin a new year, our Communications Team for the Diocese of Brownsville recommits to gathering and sharing the stories happening in the Church here in the Rio Grande Valley and beyond.

We invite you to join our ministry and help expand our reach. With your help, we want to utilize and put to best use all the communication resources available. These include *The Valley Catholic* newspaper, diocesan website, YouTube, social media, parish bulletins, radio, video messages, Weekly Update, Diocese Insight, and live coverage of special events and Masses. We also plan to expand our mobile journalism partnerships and host some training workshops in the coming months. Stay tuned.

Thank you for all your support and for your continued prayers.